DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON JORGE CORONA MIKE SPICER

TRANSFORMERS

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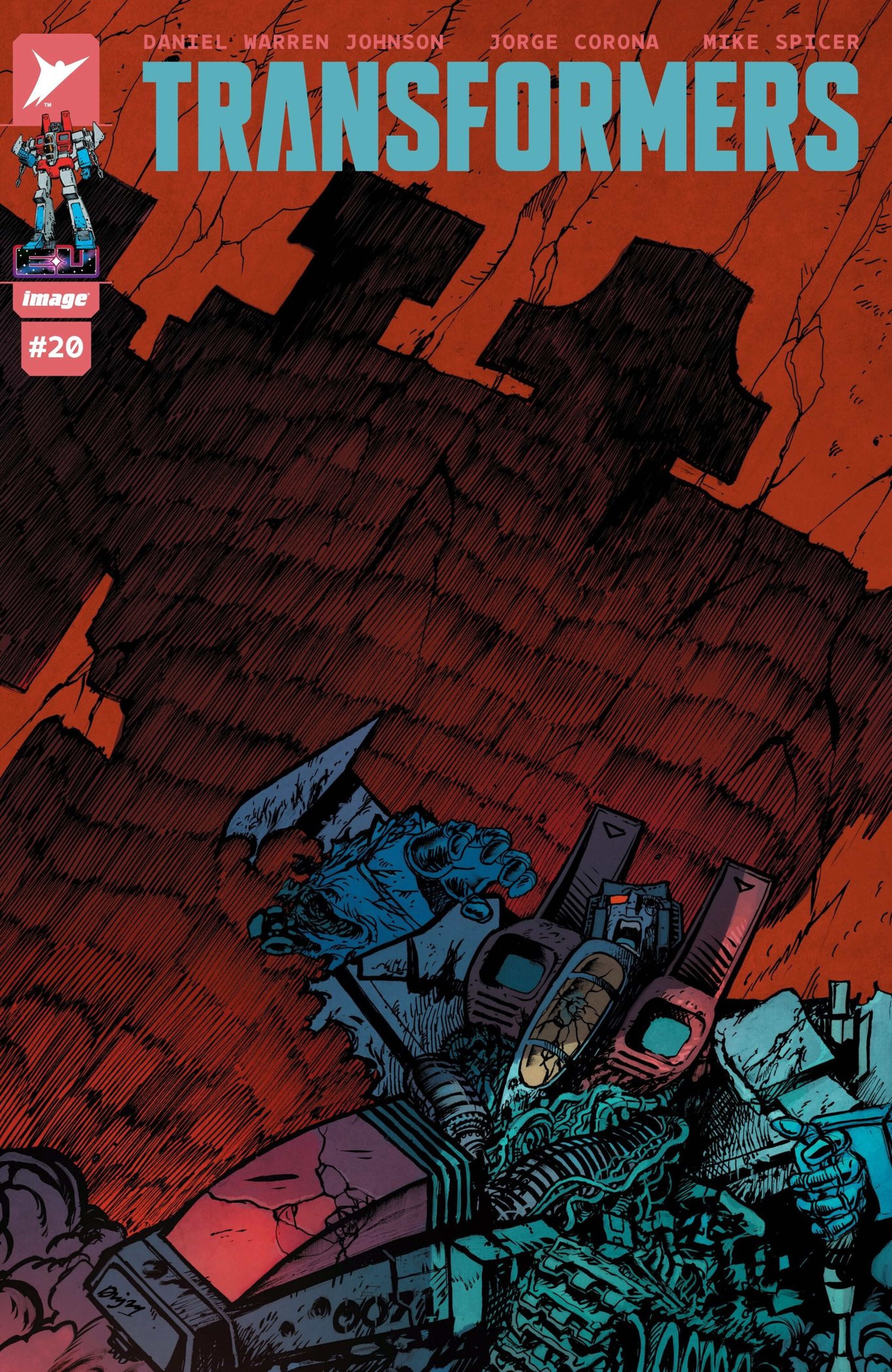

ENERGON UNIVERSE

TRANSFORMERS

ISSUE TWENTY

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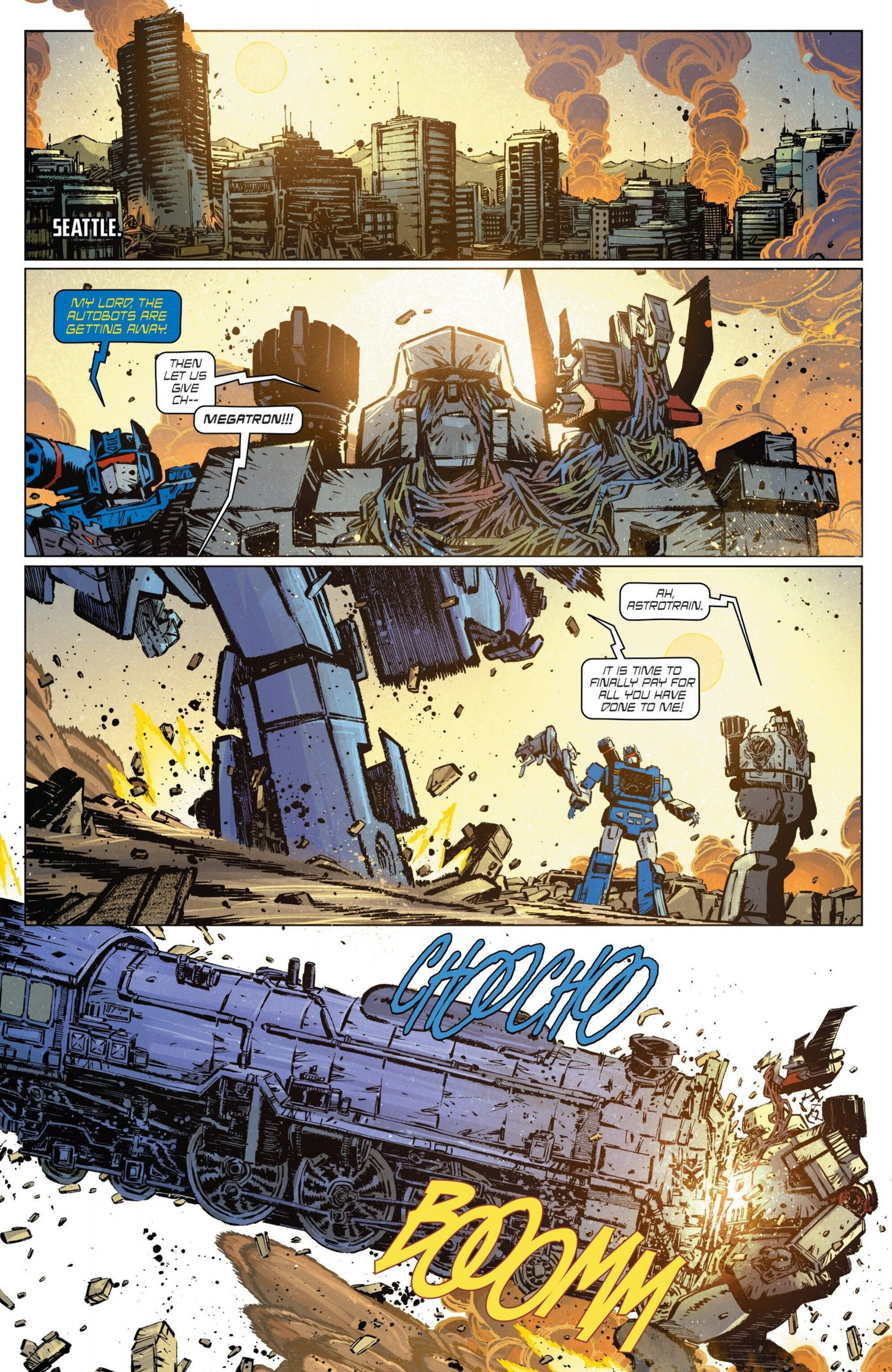
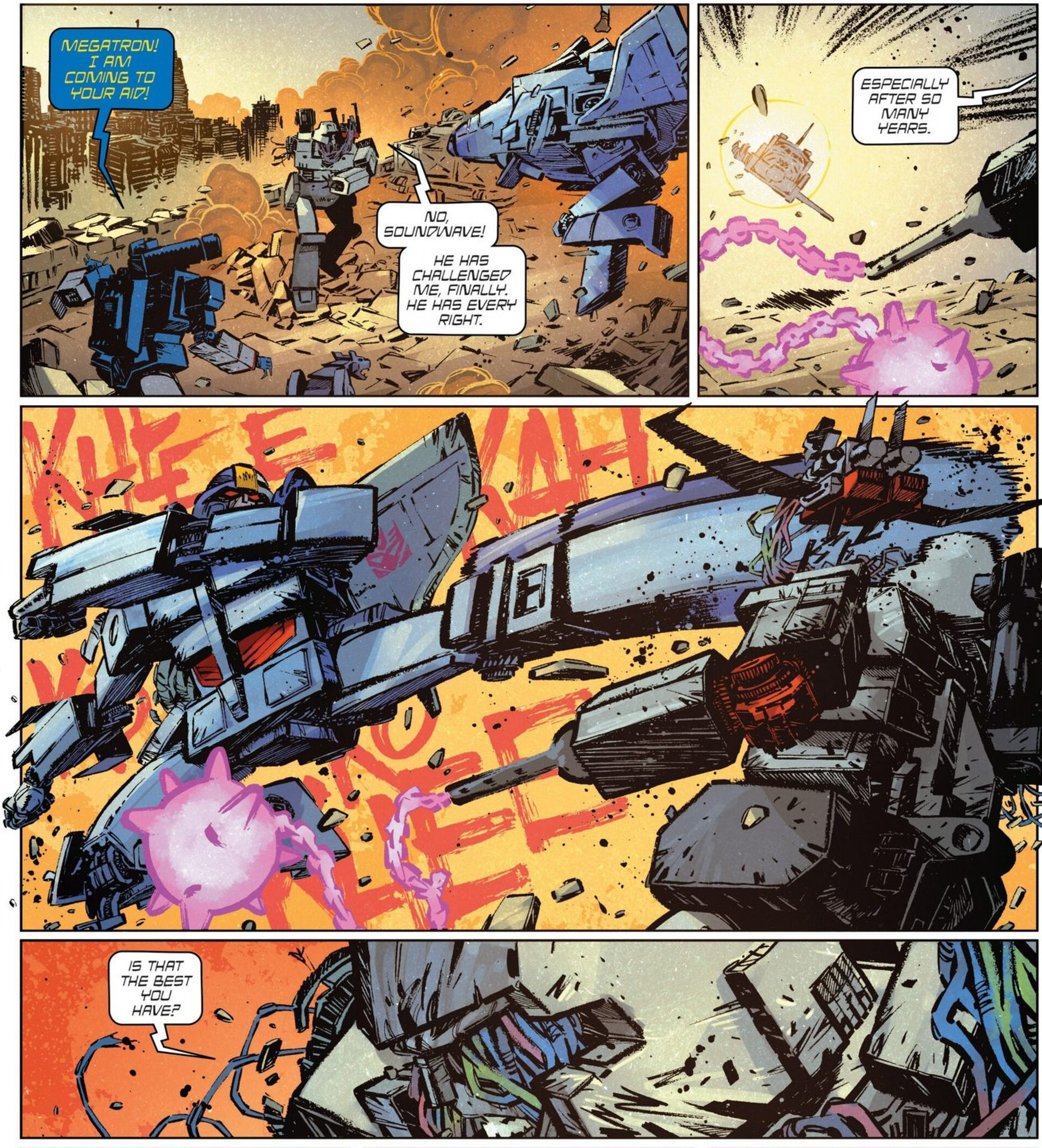
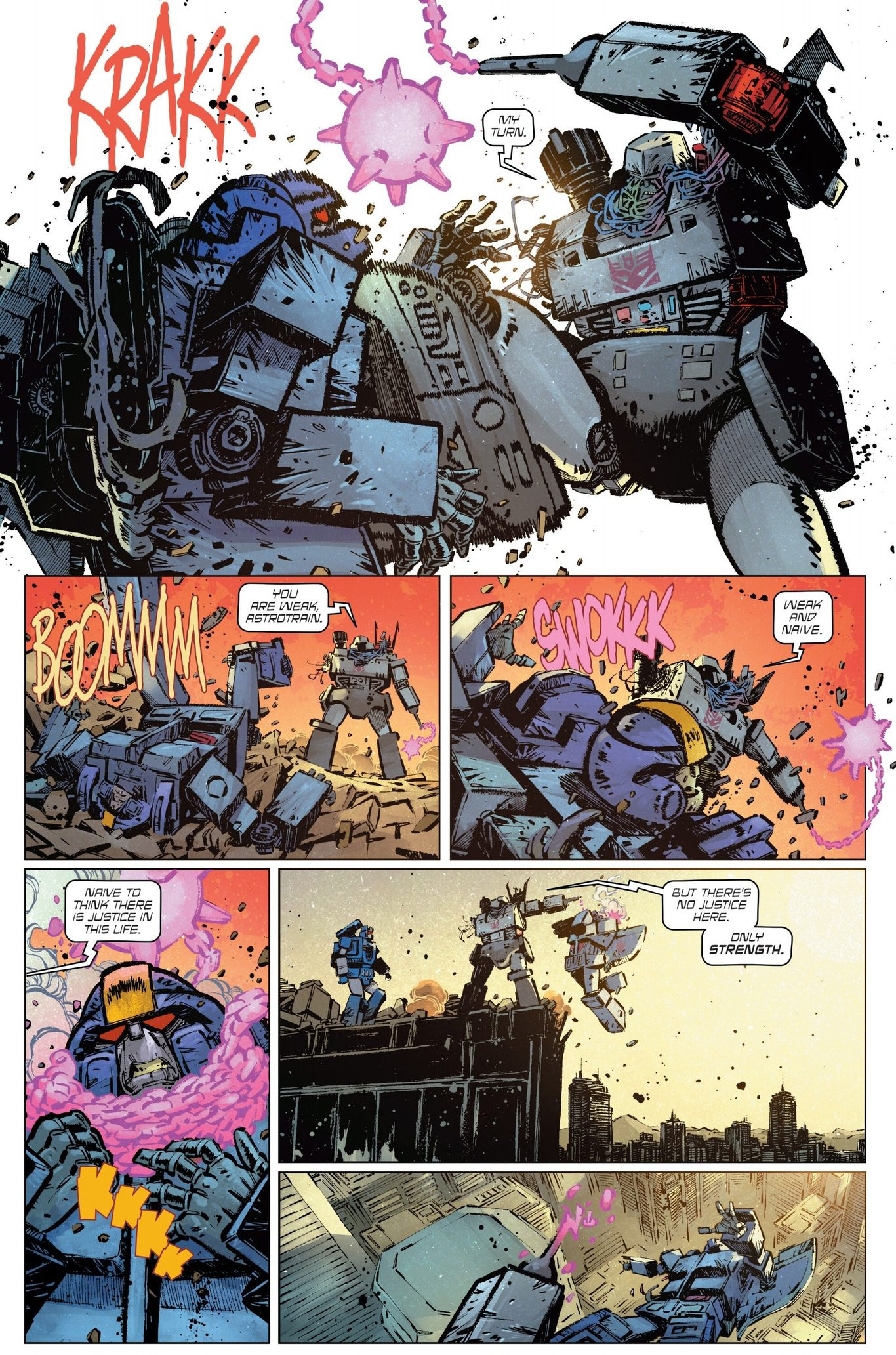
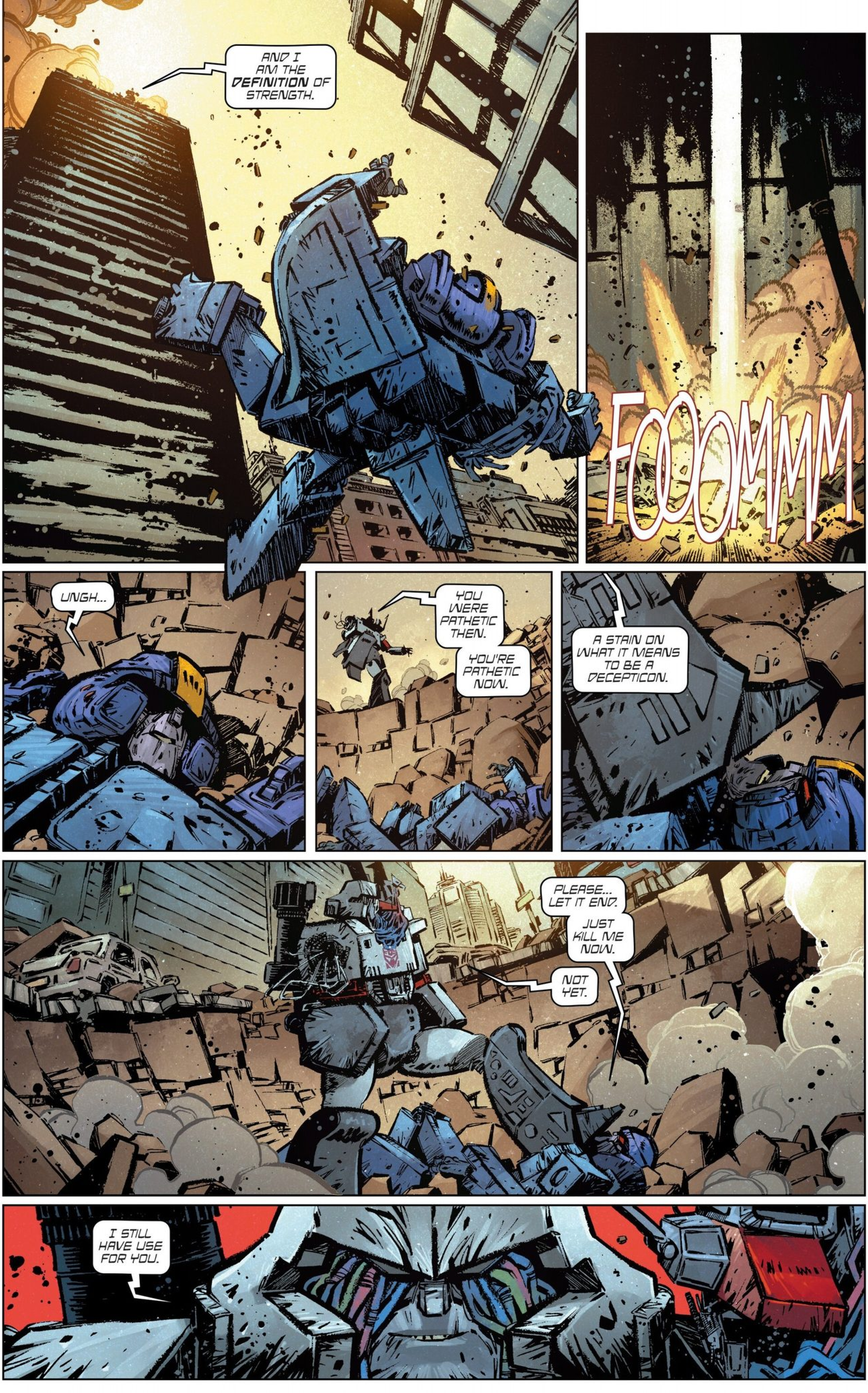
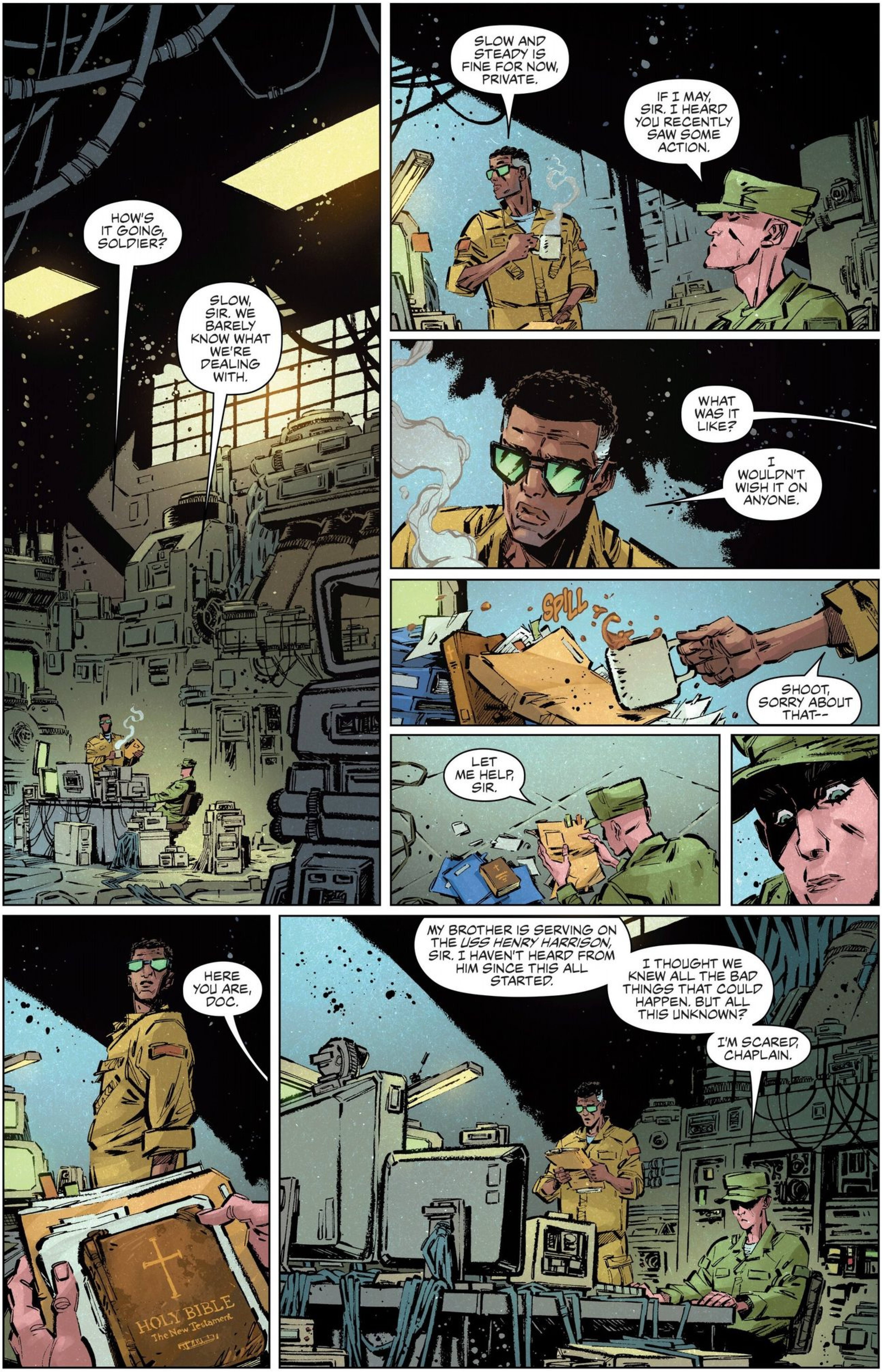
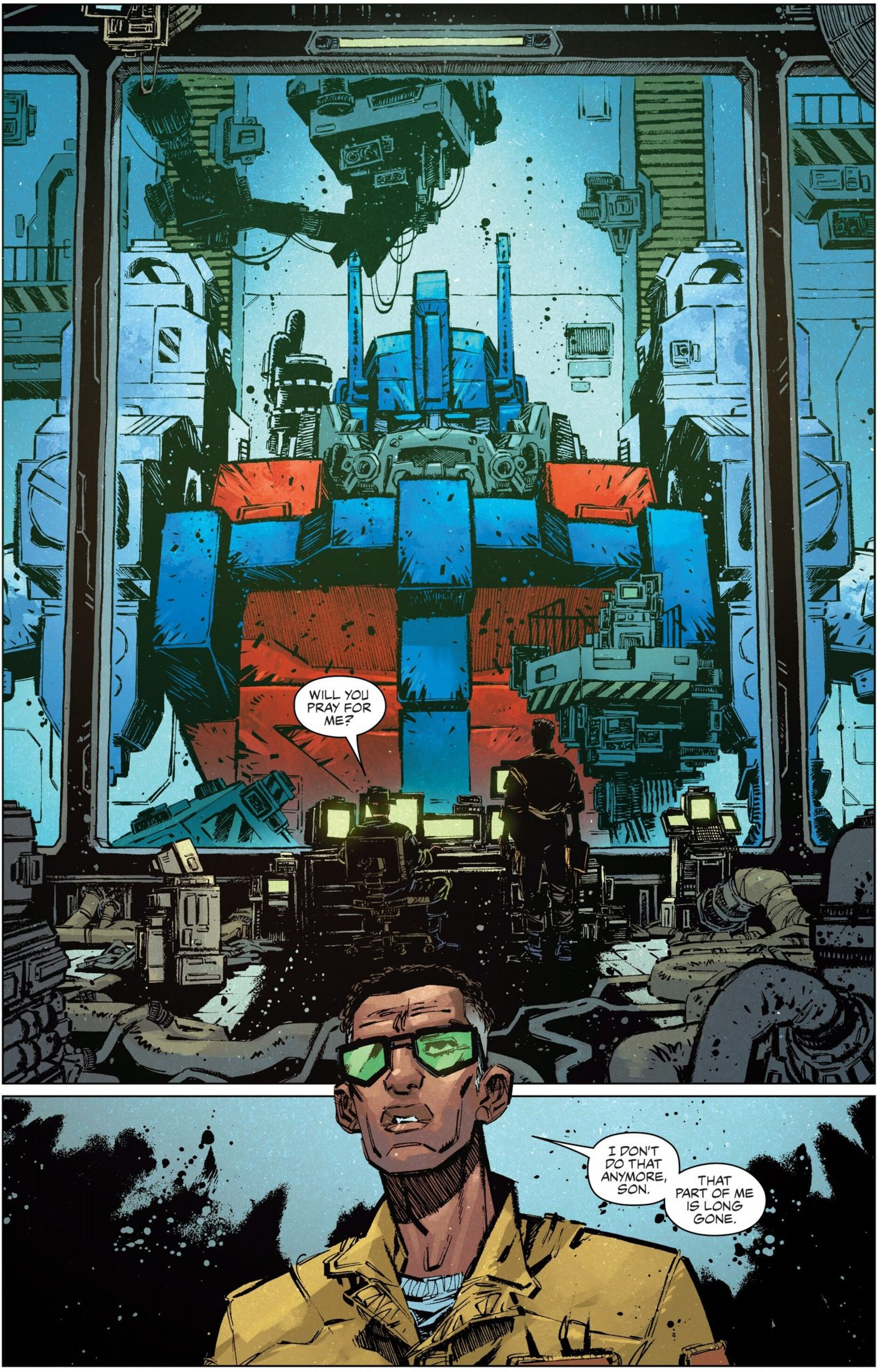

SEATTLE.
MY LORD, THE AUTOBOTS ARE GETTING AWAY.
THEN LET US GIVE CH--
MEGATRON!!!
AH, ASTROTRAIN.
IT IS TIME TO FINALLY PAY FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE TO ME!
CHOOCHOO
BOOOMM

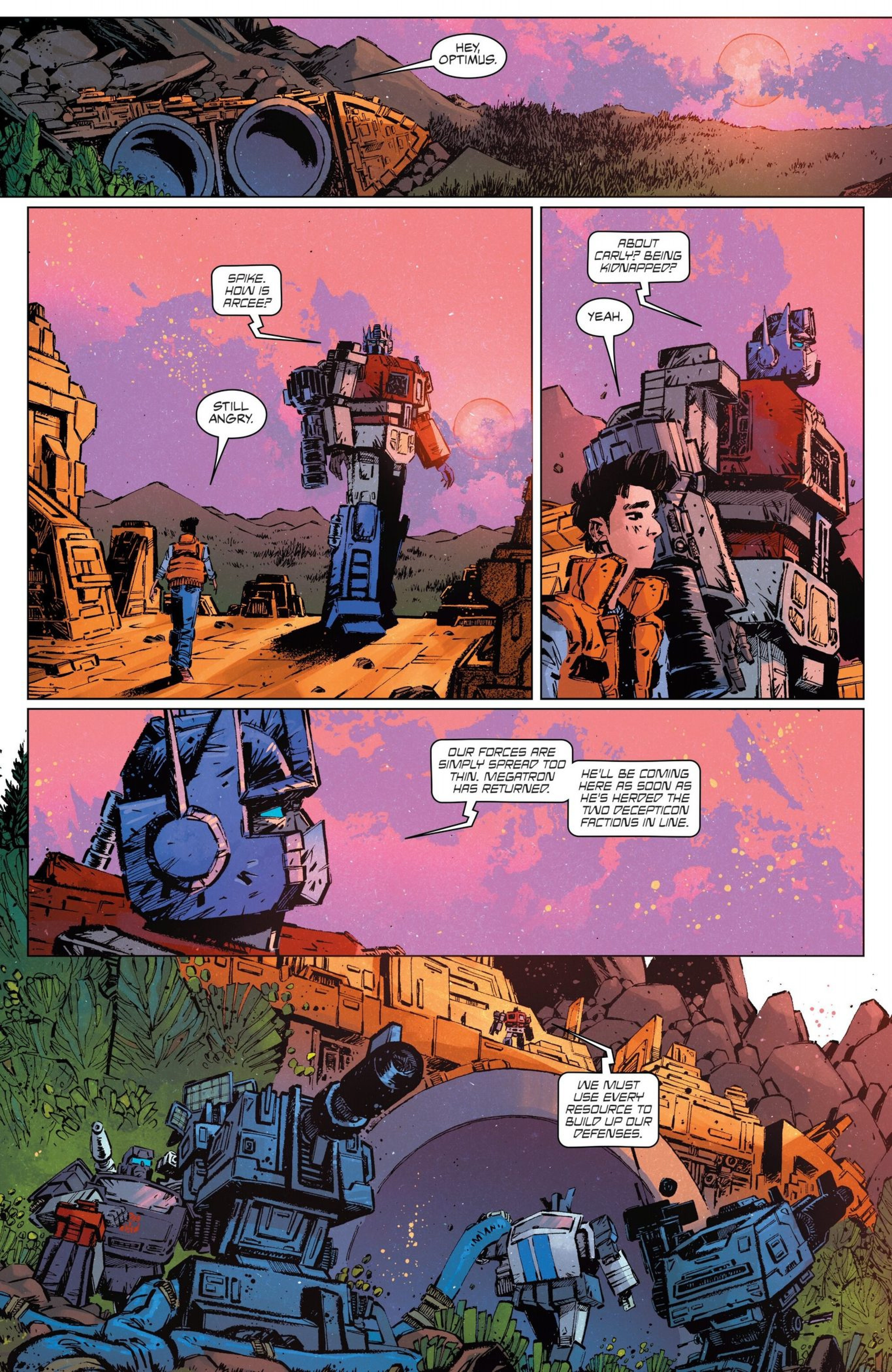

MEGATRON! I AM COMING TO YOUR AID!
NO, SOUNDWAVE!
HE HAS CHALLENGED ME, FINALLY. HE HAS EVERY RIGHT.
ESPECIALLY AFTER SO MANY YEARS.
IS THAT THE BEST YOU HAVE?
YOU KILLED MY LOVE!
POW
YOU LOCKED ME AWAY IN THE NEMESIS WITH ENOUGH ENERGON TO LAST A MILLENNIA!
POW
YOUR EXISTENCE HAS ONLY MADE ME SUFF--

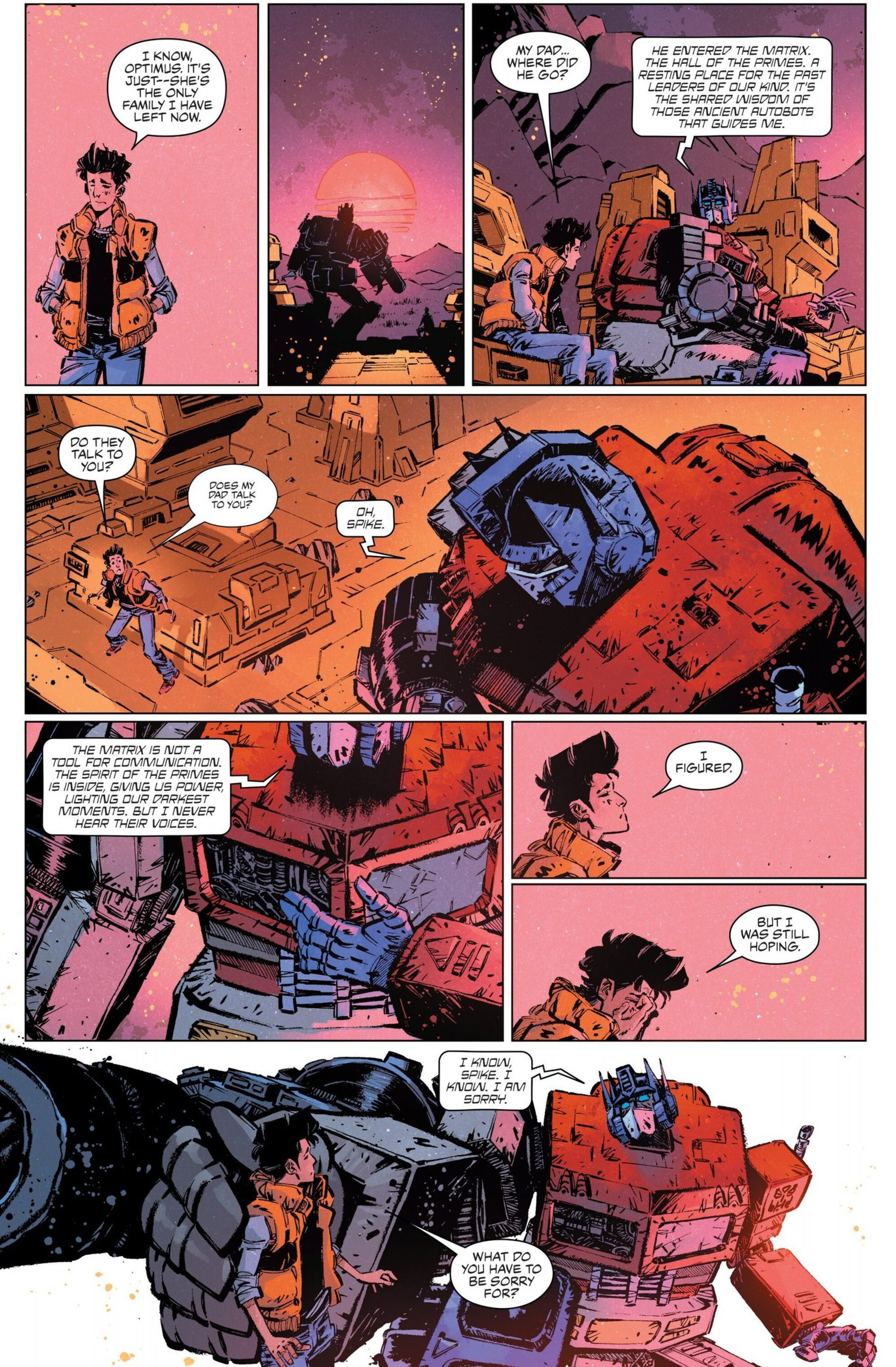

KRAKK
MY TURN.
BOOMMM
YOU ARE WEAK, ASTROTRAIN.
SWOKKK
WEAK AND NAIVE.
NAIVE TO THINK THERE IS JUSTICE IN THIS LIFE.
KKKKK
BUT THERE'S NO JUSTICE HERE.
ONLY **STRENGTH.**

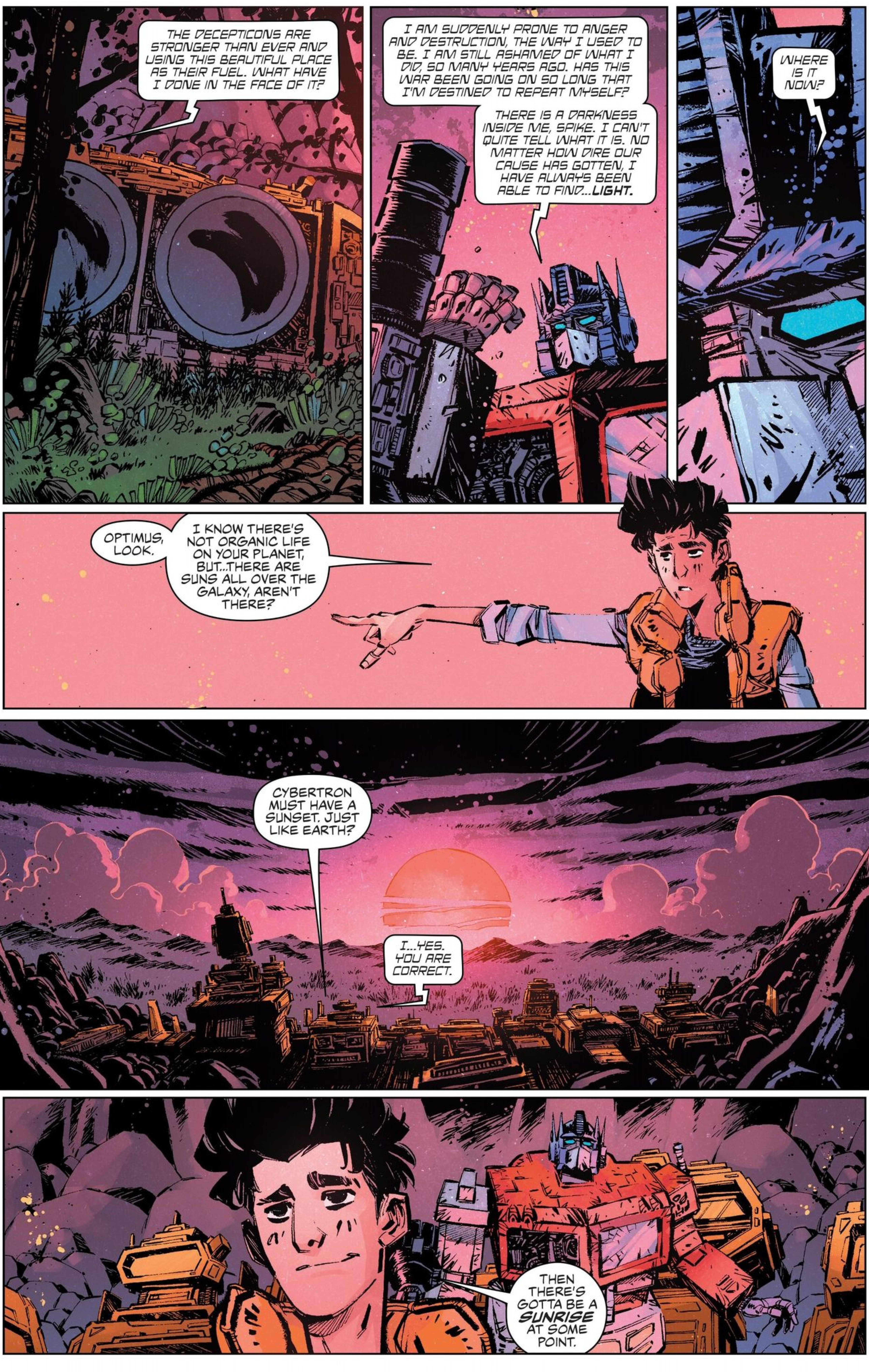

AND I AM THE **DEFINITION** OF STRENGTH.
FOOOMMM
UNGH...
YOU WERE PATHETIC THEN.
YOU'RE PATHETIC NOW.
A STAIN ON WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A DECEPTICON.
PLEASE... LET IT END.
JUST KILL ME NOW.
NOT YET.
I STILL HAVE USE FOR YOU.

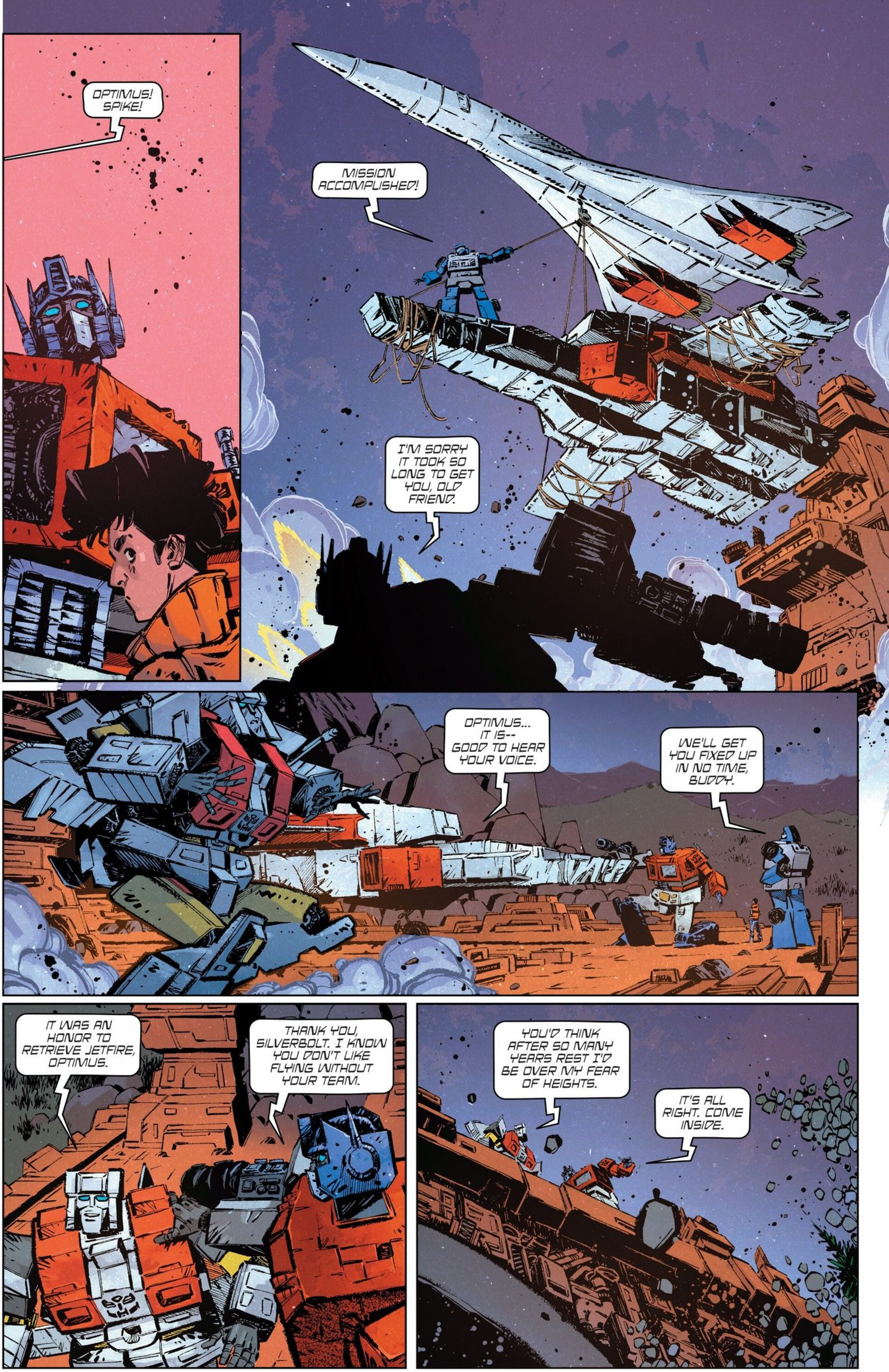

HOW'S IT GOING, SOLDIER?
SLOW, SIR. WE BARELY KNOW WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH.
SLOW AND STEADY IS FINE FOR NOW, PRIVATE.
IF I MAY, SIR. I HEARD YOU RECENTLY SAW SOME ACTION.
WHAT WAS IT LIKE?
I WOULDN'T WISH IT ON ANYONE.
SPILL
SHOOT, SORRY ABOUT THAT--
LET ME HELP, SIR.
HERE YOU ARE, DOC.
HOLY BIBLE
The New Testament
MY BROTHER IS SERVING ON THE *USS HENRY HARRISON*, SIR. I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HIM SINCE THIS ALL STARTED.
I THOUGHT WE KNEW ALL THE BAD THINGS THAT COULD HAPPEN. BUT ALL THIS UNKNOWN?
I'M SCARED, CHAPLAIN.

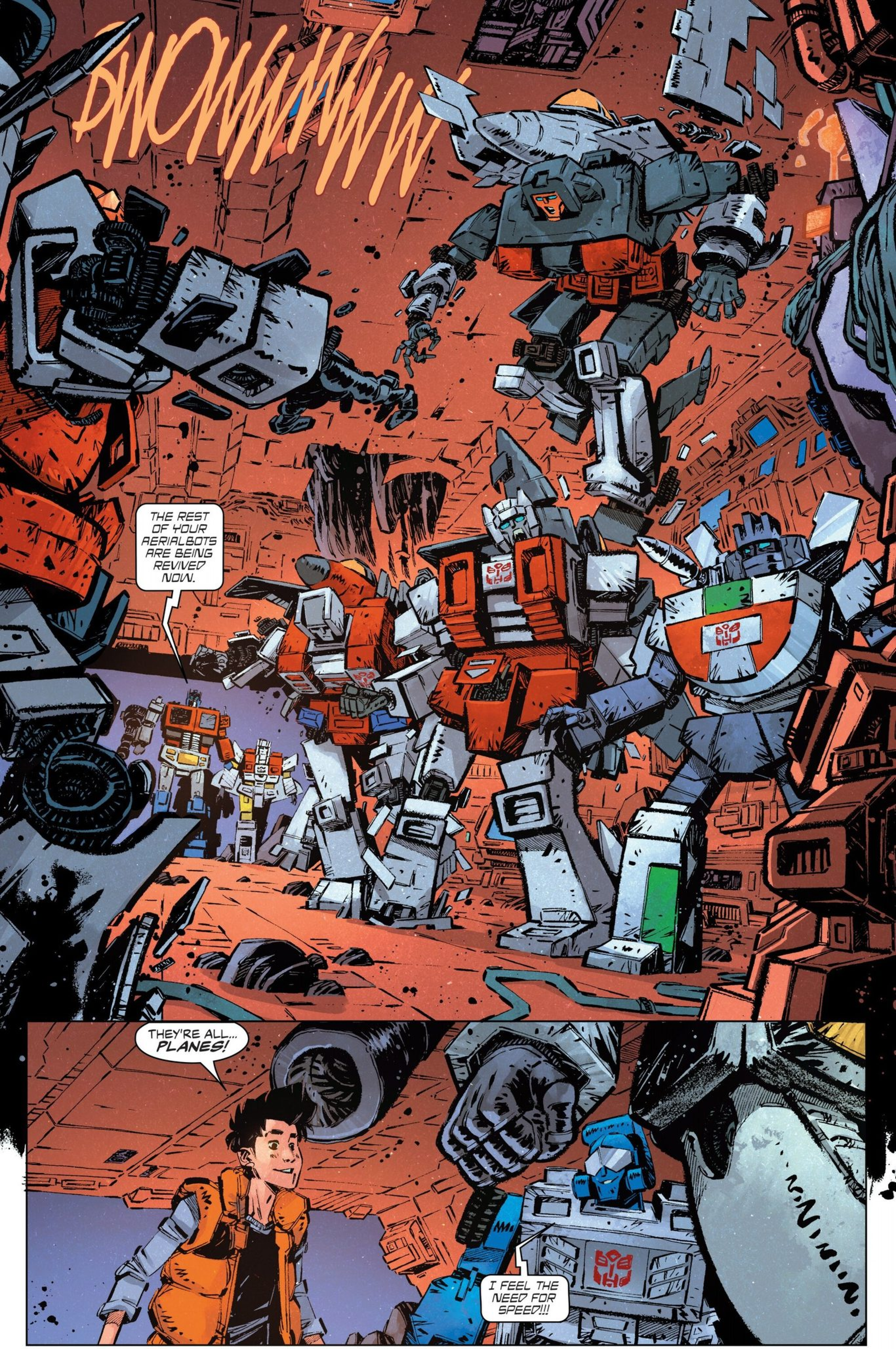

WILL YOU PRAY FOR ME?
I DON'T DO THAT ANYMORE, SON.
THAT PART OF ME IS LONG GONE.

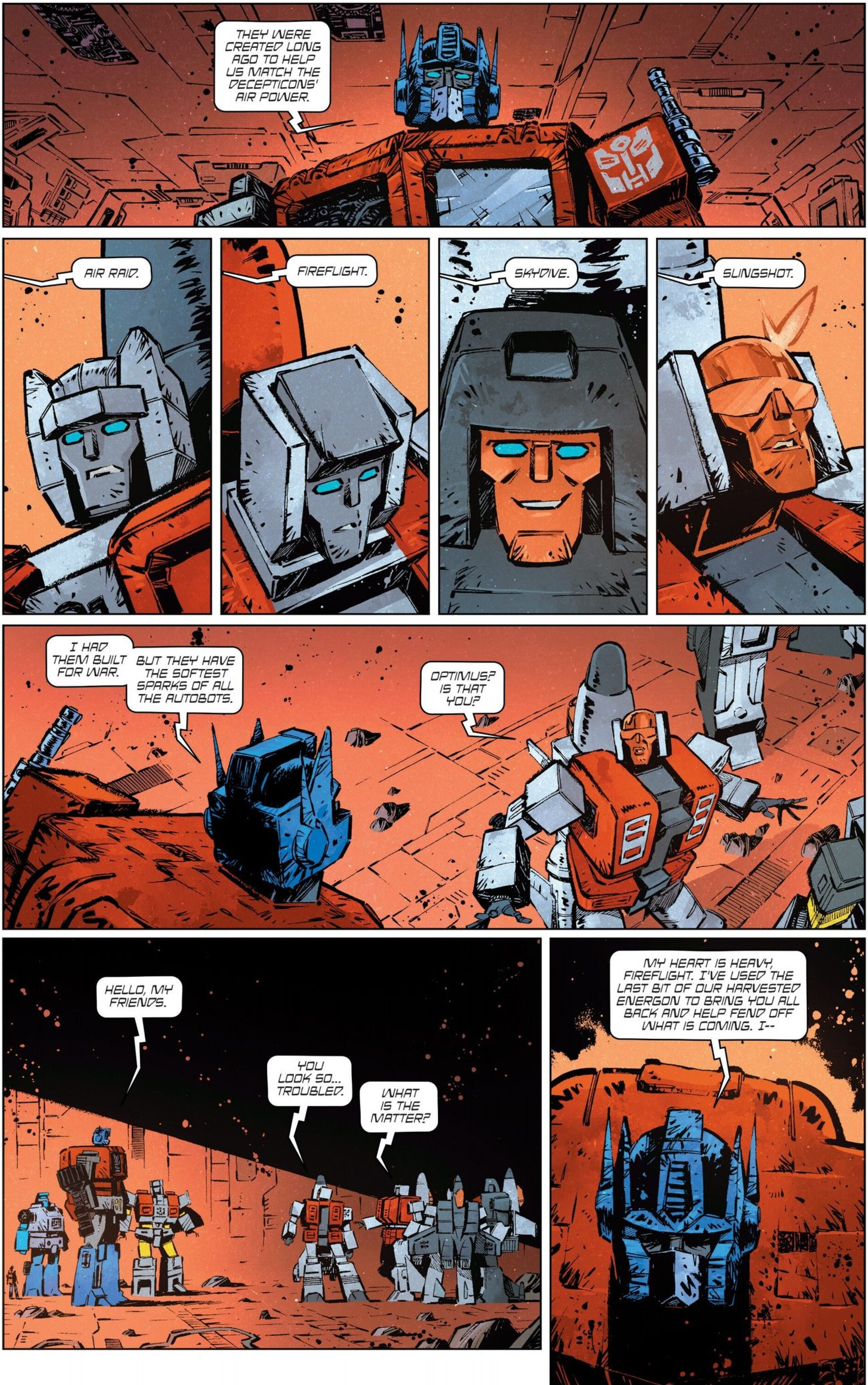

HEY, OPTIMUS.
SPIKE. HOW IS ARCEE?
STILL ANGRY.
ABOUT CARLY? BEING KIDNAPPED?
YEAH.
OUR FORCES ARE SIMPLY SPREAD TOO THIN. MEGATRON HAS RETURNED.
HE'LL BE COMING HERE AS SOON AS HE'S HERDED THE TWO DECEPTICON FACTIONS IN LINE.
WE MUST USE EVERY RESOURCE TO BUILD UP OUR DEFENSES.

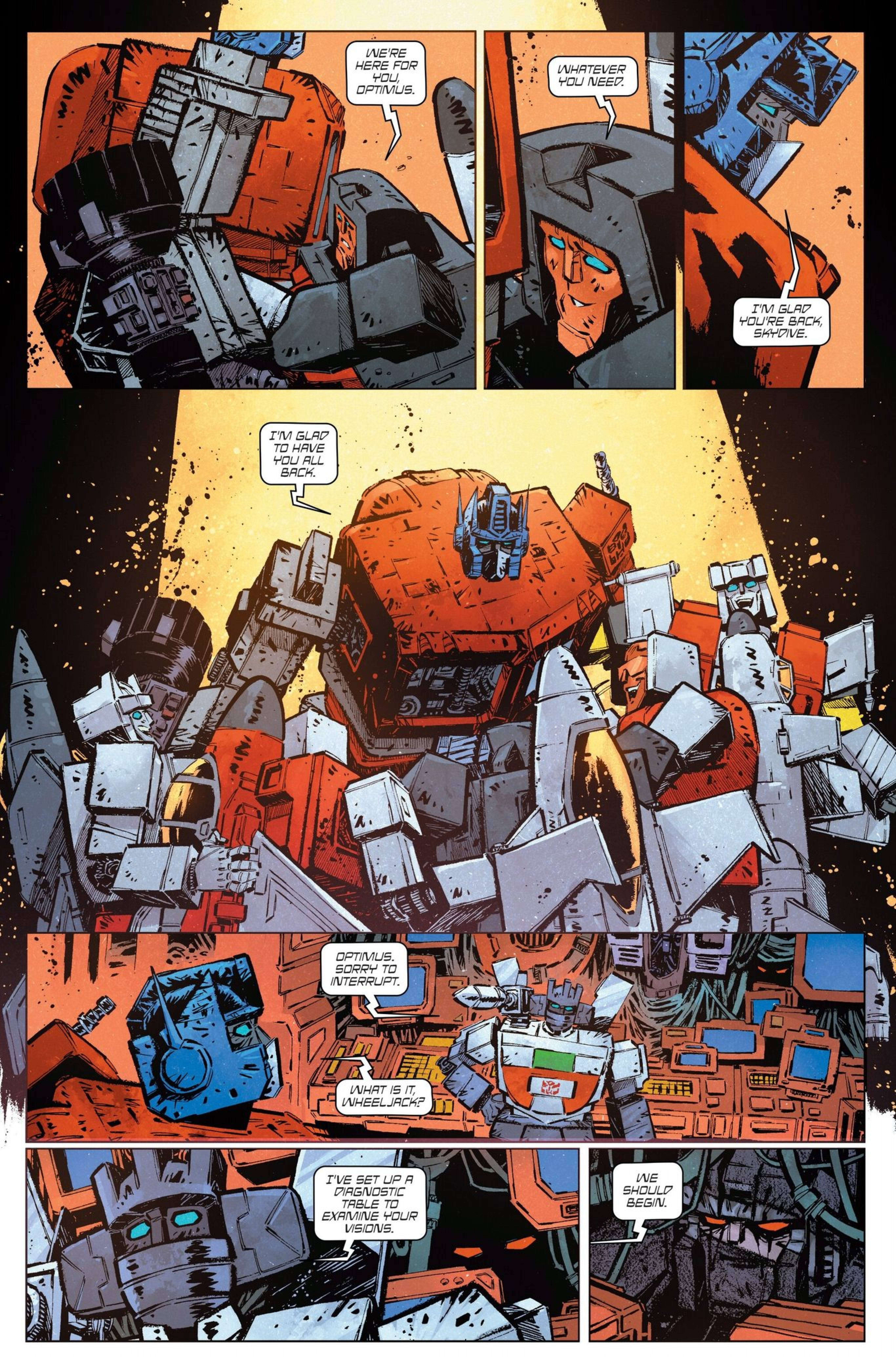

I KNOW, OPTIMUS. IT'S JUST--SHE'S THE ONLY FAMILY I HAVE LEFT NOW.
MY DAD... WHERE DID HE GO?
HE ENTERED THE MATRIX. THE HALL OF THE PRIMES. A RESTING PLACE FOR THE PAST LEADERS OF OUR KIND. IT'S THE SHARED WISDOM OF THOSE ANCIENT AUTOBOTS THAT GUIDES ME.
DO THEY TALK TO YOU?
DOES MY DAD TALK TO YOU?
OH, SPIKE.
THE MATRIX IS NOT A TOOL FOR COMMUNICATION. THE SPIRIT OF THE PRIMES IS INSIDE, GIVING US POWER, LIGHTING OUR DARKEST MOMENTS. BUT I NEVER HEAR THEIR VOICES.
I FIGURED.
BUT I WAS STILL HOPING.
I KNOW, SPIKE. I KNOW. I AM SORRY.
WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO BE SORRY FOR?

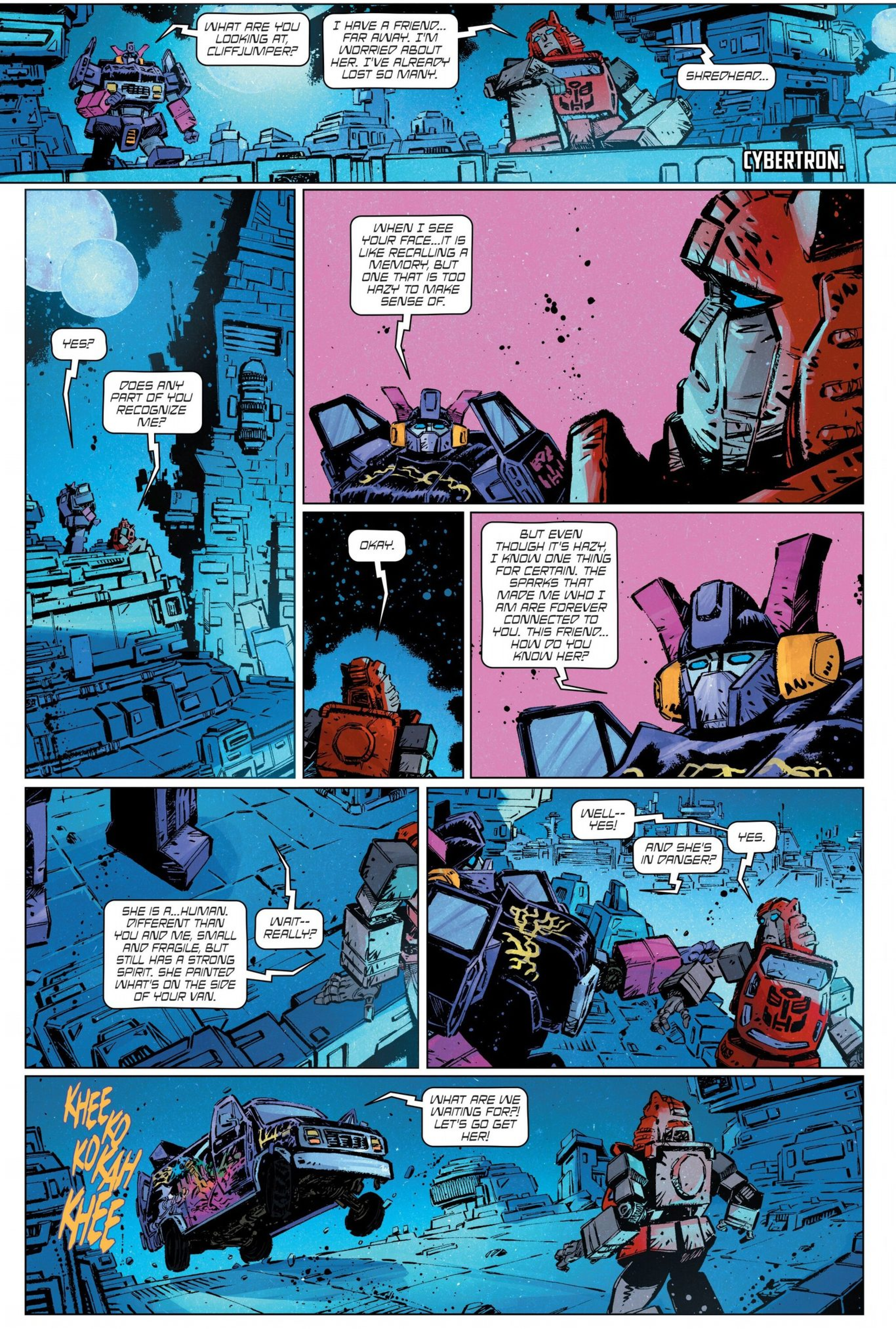

THE DECEPTICONS ARE STRONGER THAN EVER AND USING THIS BEAUTIFUL PLACE AS THEIR FUEL. WHAT HAVE I DONE IN THE FACE OF IT?
I AM SUDDENLY PRONE TO ANGER AND DESTRUCTION, THE WAY I USED TO BE. I AM STILL ASHAMED OF WHAT I DID, SO MANY YEARS AGO. HAS THIS WAR BEEN GOING ON SO LONG THAT I'M DESTINED TO REPEAT MYSELF?
THERE IS A DARKNESS INSIDE ME, SPIKE. I CAN'T QUITE TELL WHAT IT IS. NO MATTER HOW DIRE OUR CAUSE HAS GOTTEN, I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO FIND...**LIGHT.**
WHERE IS IT NOW?
OPTIMUS, LOOK.
I KNOW THERE'S NOT ORGANIC LIFE ON YOUR PLANET, BUT...THERE ARE SUNS ALL OVER THE GALAXY, AREN'T THERE?
CYBERTRON MUST HAVE A SUNSET. JUST LIKE EARTH?
I...YES. YOU ARE CORRECT.
THEN THERE'S GOTTA BE A ***SUNRISE*** AT SOME POINT.

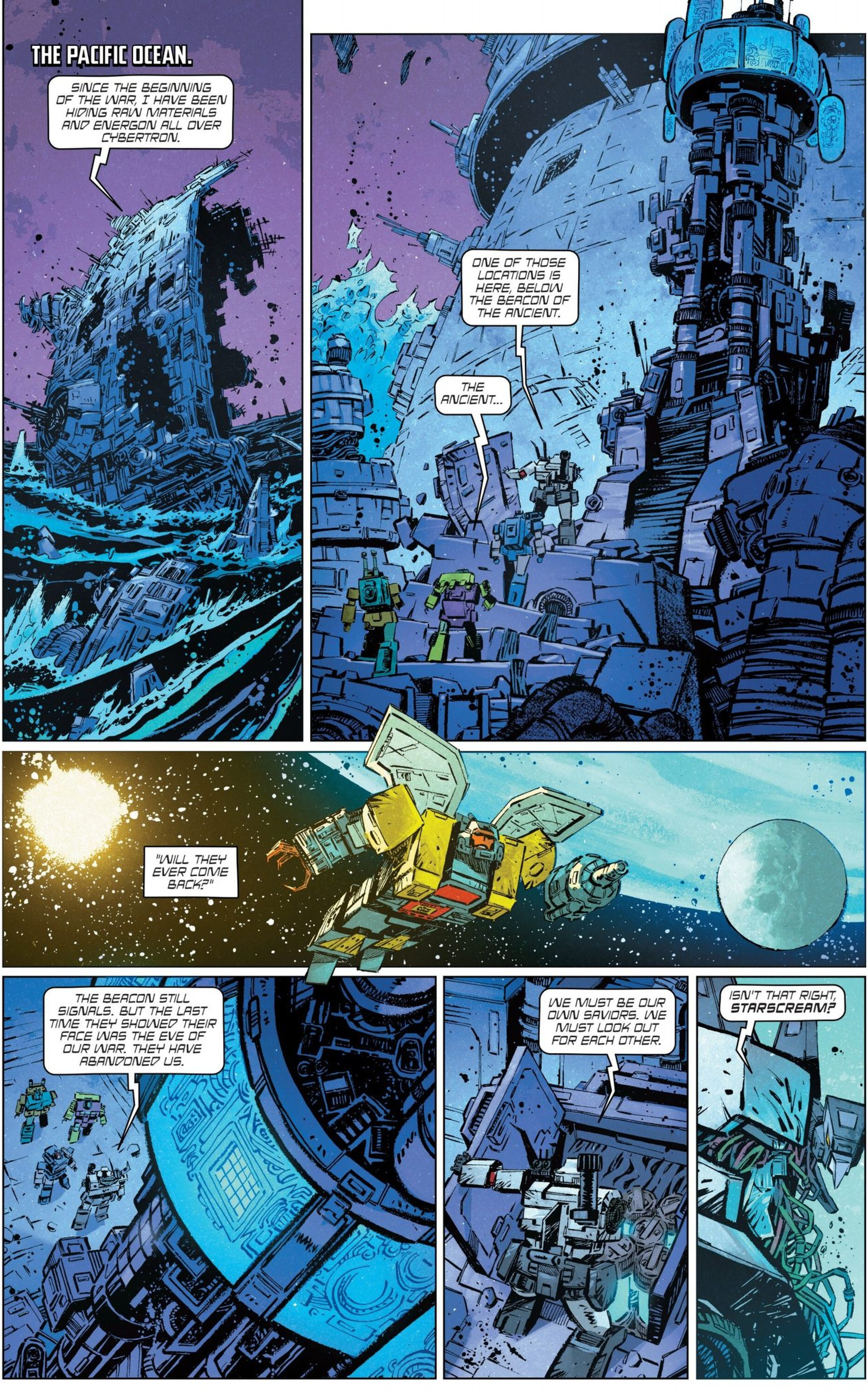

OPTIMUS! SPIKE!
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!
I'M SORRY IT TOOK SO LONG TO GET YOU, OLD FRIEND.
OPTIMUS... IT IS-- GOOD TO HEAR YOUR VOICE.
WE'LL GET YOU FIXED UP IN NO TIME, BUDDY.
IT WAS AN HONOR TO RETRIEVE JETFIRE, OPTIMUS.
THANK YOU, SILVERBOLT. I KNOW YOU DON'T LIKE FLYING WITHOUT YOUR TEAM.
YOU'D THINK AFTER SO MANY YEARS REST I'D BE OVER MY FEAR OF HEIGHTS.
IT'S ALL RIGHT. COME INSIDE.

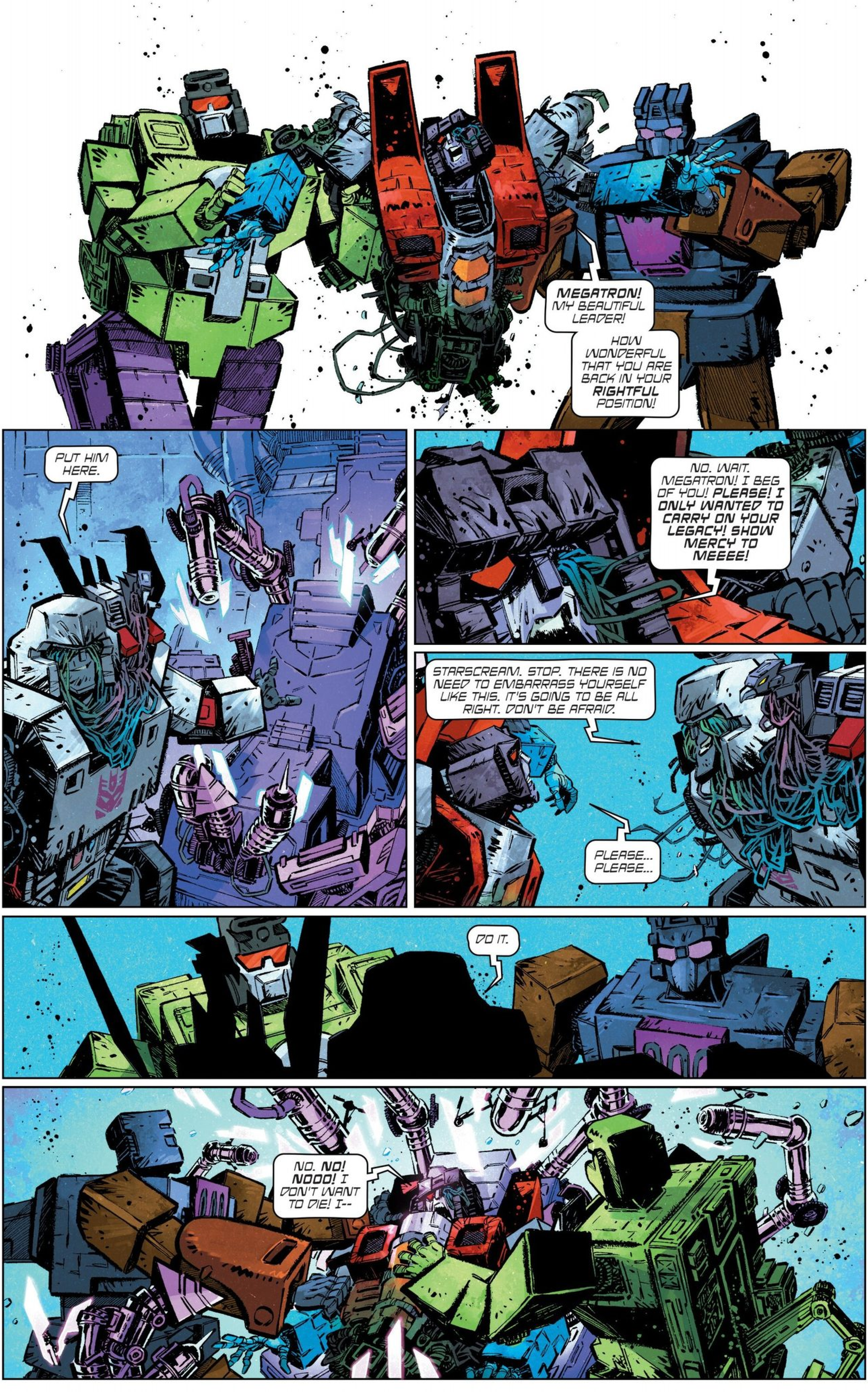

BWOWWWWW
THE REST OF YOUR AERIALBOTS ARE BEING REVIVED NOW.
THEY'RE ALL... *PLANES!*
I FEEL THE NEED FOR SPEED!!!

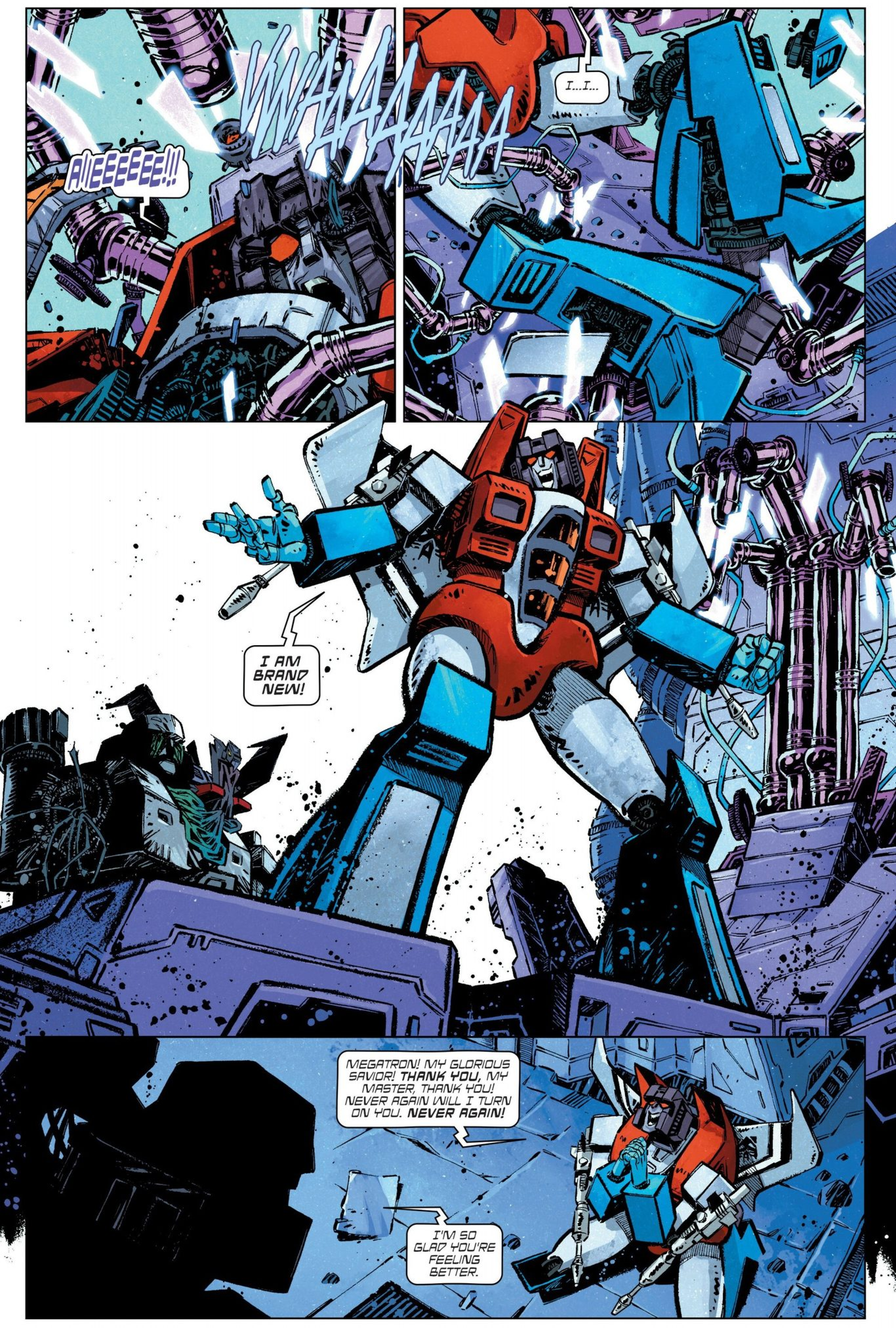

THEY WERE CREATED LONG AGO TO HELP US MATCH THE DECEPTICONS' AIR POWER.
AIR RAID.
FIREFLIGHT.
SKYDIVE.
SLINGSHOT.
I HAD THEM BUILT FOR WAR.
BUT THEY HAVE THE SOFTEST SPARKS OF ALL THE AUTOBOTS.
OPTIMUS? IS THAT YOU?
HELLO, MY FRIENDS.
YOU LOOK SO... TROUBLED.
WHAT IS THE MATTER?
MY HEART IS HEAVY, FIREFLIGHT. I'VE USED THE LAST BIT OF OUR HARVESTED ENERGON TO BRING YOU ALL BACK AND HELP FEND OFF WHAT IS COMING. I--

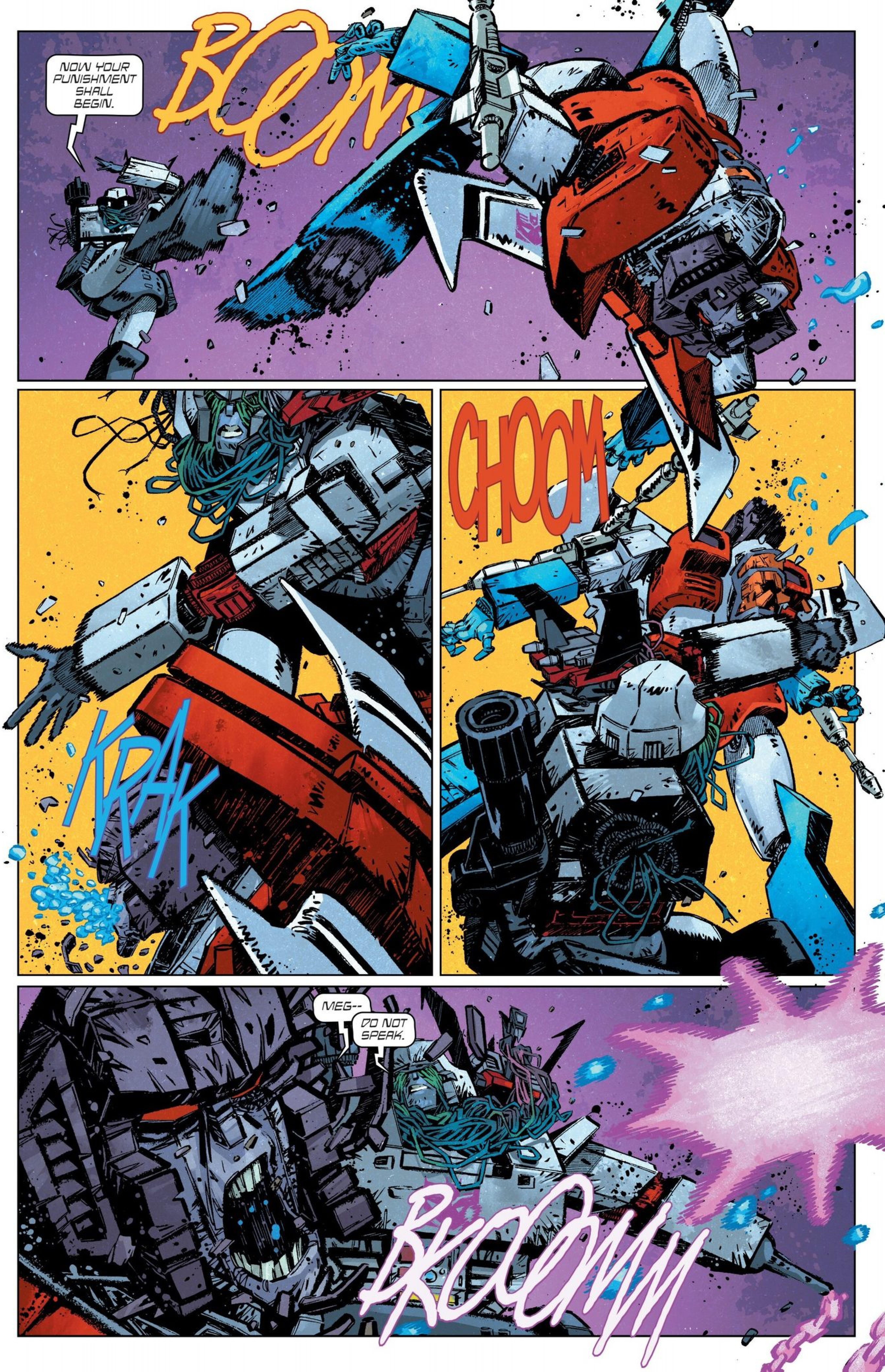

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU, OPTIMUS.
WHATEVER YOU NEED.
I'M GLAD YOU'RE BACK, SKYDIVE.
I'M GLAD TO HAVE YOU ALL BACK.
OPTIMUS. SORRY TO INTERRUPT.
WHAT IS IT, WHEELJACK?
I'VE SET UP A DIAGNOSTIC TABLE TO EXAMINE YOUR VISIONS.
WE SHOULD BEGIN.

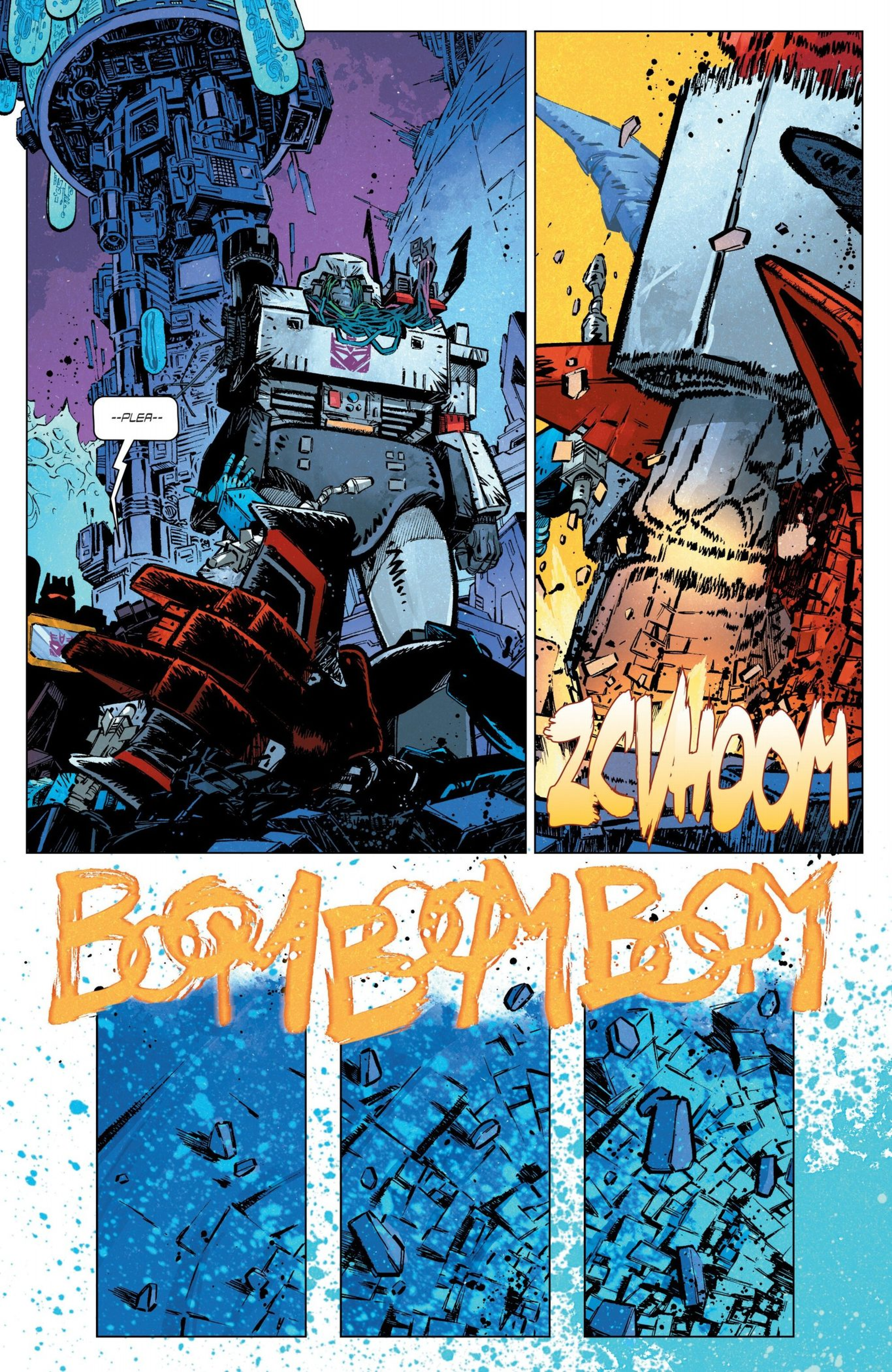

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT, CLIFFJUMPER?
I HAVE A FRIEND... FAR AWAY. I'M WORRIED ABOUT HER. I'VE ALREADY LOST SO MANY.
SHREDHEAD...
CYBERTRON.
YES?
DOES ANY PART OF YOU RECOGNIZE ME?
WHEN I SEE YOUR FACE...IT IS LIKE RECALLING A MEMORY, BUT ONE THAT IS TOO HAZY TO MAKE SENSE OF.
OKAY.
BUT EVEN THOUGH IT'S HAZY, I KNOW ONE THING FOR CERTAIN. THE SPARKS THAT MADE ME WHO I AM ARE FOREVER CONNECTED TO YOU. THIS FRIEND... HOW DO YOU KNOW HER?
SHE IS A...HUMAN. DIFFERENT THAN YOU AND ME, SMALL AND FRAGILE, BUT STILL HAS A STRONG SPIRIT. SHE PAINTED WHAT'S ON THE SIDE OF YOUR VAN.
WAIT-- REALLY?
WELL-- YES!
AND SHE'S IN DANGER?
YES.
KHEE KO KO KAH KHEE
WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?! LET'S GO GET HER!

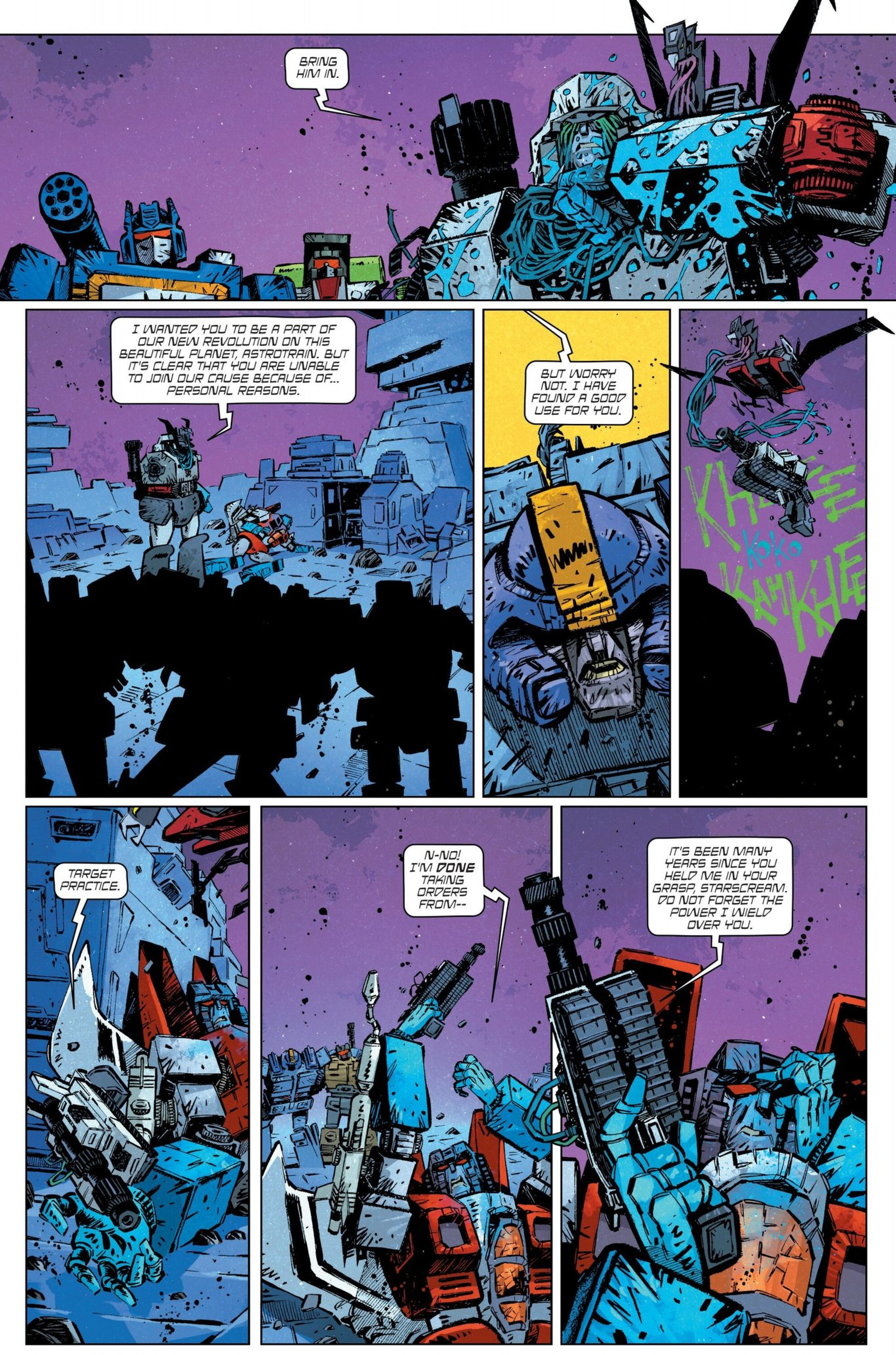

THE PACIFIC OCEAN.
SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE WAR, I HAVE BEEN HIDING RAW MATERIALS AND ENERGON ALL OVER CYBERTRON.
ONE OF THOSE LOCATIONS IS HERE, BELOW THE BEACON OF THE ANCIENT.
THE ANCIENT...
"WILL THEY EVER COME BACK?"
THE BEACON STILL SIGNALS. BUT THE LAST TIME THEY SHOWED THEIR FACE WAS THE EVE OF OUR WAR. THEY HAVE ABANDONED US.
WE MUST BE OUR OWN SAVIORS. WE MUST LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, STARSCREAM?

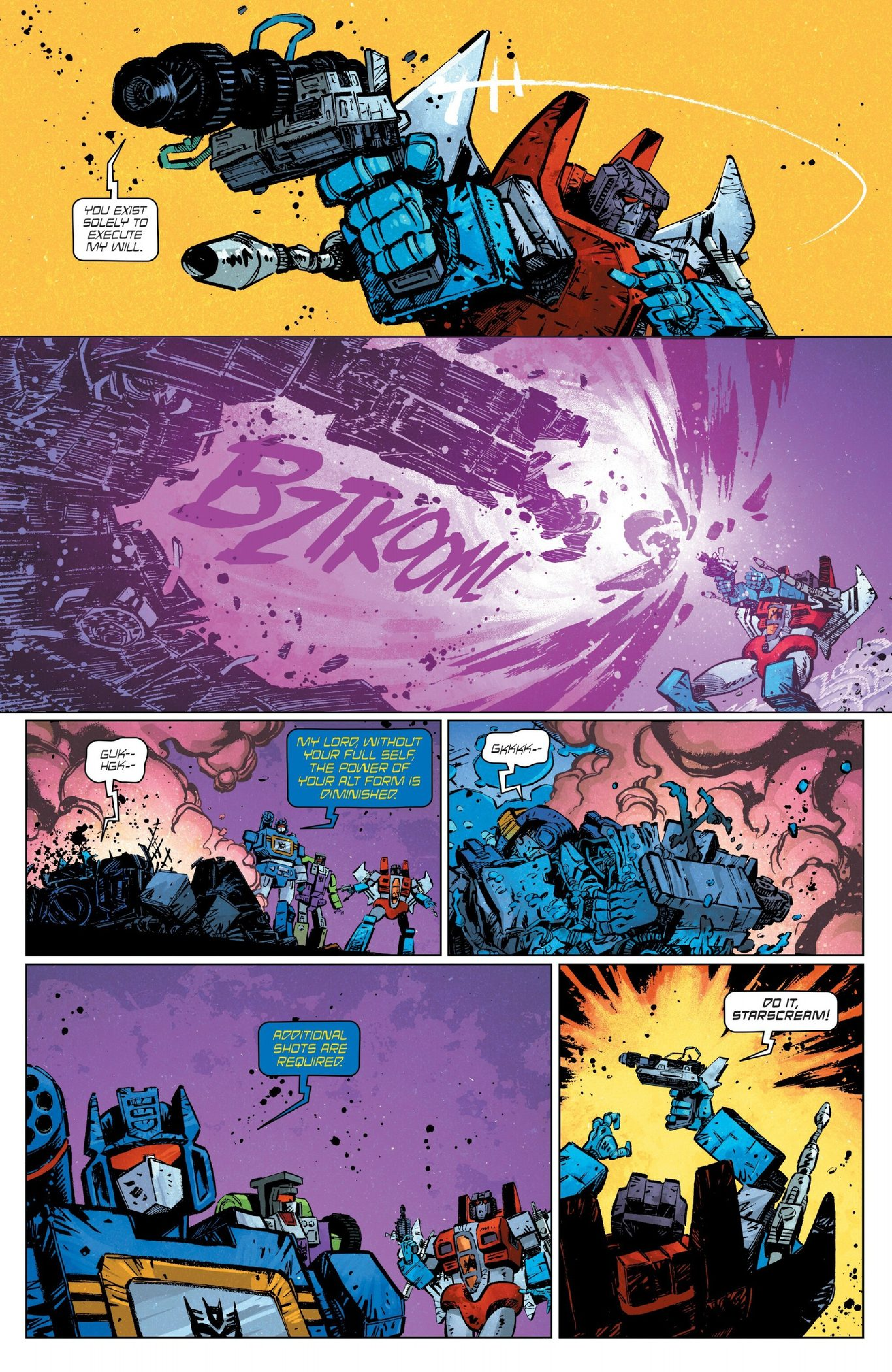

MEGATRON! MY BEAUTIFUL LEADER!
HOW WONDERFUL THAT YOU ARE BACK IN YOUR **RIGHTFUL** POSITION!
PUT HIM HERE.
NO. WAIT. MEGATRON! I BEG OF YOU! **PLEASE! I ONLY WANTED TO CARRY ON YOUR LEGACY! SHOW MERCY TO MEEEE!**
STARSCREAM. STOP. THERE IS NO NEED TO EMBARRASS YOURSELF LIKE THIS. IT'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT. DON'T BE AFRAID.
PLEASE... PLEASE...
DO IT.
NO. **NO! NOOO!** I DON'T WANT TO DIE! I--

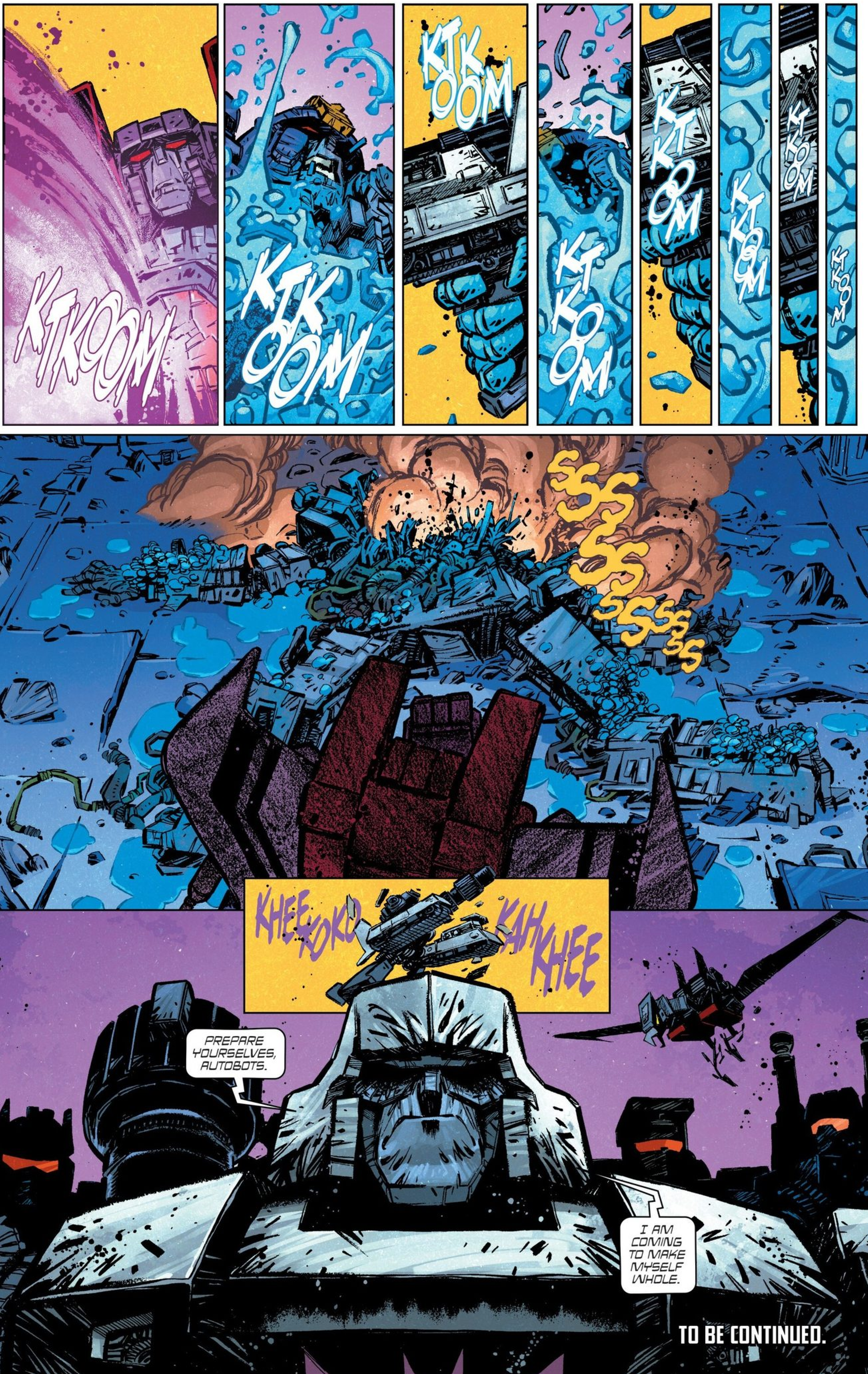

VWAAAAAAAAA
AIIEEEEEE!!!
I... I...
I AM BRAND NEW!
MEGATRON! MY GLORIOUS SAVIOR! **THANK YOU,** MY MASTER, THANK YOU! NEVER AGAIN WILL I TURN ON YOU. **NEVER AGAIN!**
I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE FEELING BETTER.


NOW YOUR PUNISHMENT SHALL BEGIN.
BOOM
CHOOM
KRAK
MEG--
DO NOT SPEAK.
BROOOM


--PLEA--
ZCVHOOM
BOOMBOOMBOOM


BRING HIM IN.
I WANTED YOU TO BE A PART OF OUR NEW REVOLUTION ON THIS BEAUTIFUL PLANET, ASTROTRAIN. BUT IT'S CLEAR THAT YOU ARE UNABLE TO JOIN OUR CAUSE BECAUSE OF... PERSONAL REASONS.
BUT WORRY NOT. I HAVE FOUND A GOOD USE FOR YOU.
KHEE
KOKO
KAHKHEE
TARGET PRACTICE.
N-NO! I'M **DONE** TAKING ORDERS FROM--
IT'S BEEN MANY YEARS SINCE YOU HELD ME IN YOUR GRASP, STARSCREAM. DO NOT FORGET THE POWER I WIELD OVER YOU.


YOU EXIST SOLELY TO EXECUTE MY WILL.
BZZKOOM!
GUK-- HGK--
MY LORD, WITHOUT YOUR FULL SELF, THE POWER OF YOUR ALT FORM IS DIMINISHED.
GKKKK--
ADDITIONAL SHOTS ARE REQUIRED.
DO IT, STARSCREAM!


KTKOOM
KTK OOM
KTK OOM
KTKOOM
KTKOOM
KTKOOM
KTKOOM
KTKOOM
SSSSSSSSS
KHEEKOKO KAHKHEE
PREPARE YOURSELVES, AUTOBOTS.
I AM COMING TO MAKE MYSELF WHOLE.

TO BE CONTINUED.

THE MATRIX OF LETTERSHIP

SEND LETTERS TO
TRANSFORMERS@SKYBOUND.COM

PREPARE YOURSELVES AUTOBOTS...and readers! The coming issues are going to blow your minds, I'm not kidding. Ben Abernathy, once again rolling out and joined by the Motor Master himself, Daniel Warren Johnson!

Whoah, Ben, don't give anything away! MOTORMASTER is one of my favorite Transformers! I wonder if he's going to show up...

Hello Skybound Transformers team,

Hasbro and its media cohorts thoroughly brainwashed me when I was young. So, I'm a lifelong Transformers fan. I've even done my best to indoctrinate my children.

I remember kid me standing in the local library mesmerized by the cover of Marvel Comics' Transformers issue No. 5. Now, the me of today finds great joy reading issues of Skybound's Energon Universe.

I was thrilled, back in issue No. 6 of Transformers, to witness Starscream strategically defeat Optimus Prime. Every ruthless decision Screamer made up to that point led to what should have been his greatest victory. If not for Sparkplug's unlikely sacrifice, Prime and his team would have been rust.

I was delighted, in issues 10 and 11, to see that, in the EU, a peaceful guy like Beachcomber could not only be heroic but also look super cool while being so.

And, like many old-school fans, I appreciate how you guys are handling new takes on classic human characters. Personalities I would like to see you take on include G.B. Blackrock, Chip Chase, Josie Beller and Dr. Arkeville. Have any of these characters already appeared in the EU without me noticing?

I don't believe so! The cast is already so huge, I decided to keep the human character sheet fairly small. I'm sure it will grow more in the future however!

I have a couple more questions:

Are Optimus Prime's strange visions and acts of random violence related to Megatron's gun arm and the metal tyrant's ability to control those who wield him?

:)

As for Shreadhead, I expect his first gig will be with Elita and her merry crew of bots, but can we expect him to eventually form his own band of like-minded and similarly named Autobots? Or perhaps will he strike out on a solo career?

:) :) :)

Well, as you can see, you are doing a great job keeping the old brainwashing active. Thank you for that; it's a lot of fun.

Best wishes,
Matt Anderson

Thank you for your wonderful letter, Matt! I was also brainwashed early, and now here I am! They got me!

Mission accomplished, thank you for reading Matt!

Second time writing in!

Welcome back!

Once again it's been a set of absolutely amazing issues. In particular I love the scenes of Elita-1 and Bluestreak's friendship. (The scenes where Bluestreak is acting like a lancer to her and trying to establish some level of hope are some of my favorites in the comic thus far.) It was also the establishment of Shreadhead in the issue that my previous letter was included in that really made my week.

Thanks so much! We're glad to have you!

My rambling aside, I'm once again here to ask Bluestreak related questions.

Is Bluestreak Elita-1's Second in command, or just another soldier who happens to be at her side constantly?

I kind of imagine him to be her "fixer" and wetwork person. So not necessarily second in command, but more of the guy who executes what she needs done when she needs it.

2. I know I previously asked about Praxus, but I was wondering about a really niche Marvel comics character; was there ever a Fusion? (He was from the Marvel annual comic back in 85, and ended up dying to give supporting fire to Bluestreak during a mission for Optimus Prime.)

Oh man, I think that's a little farther past where I read! I only made it to about issue 40 or so in the Marvel run.

3. Last, (mainly because I know I ask so much) is there any intentional symbolism behind the shadows on the Cybertron crew's faces. I personally have been taking it as a representation of their blindness for hope, with Bluestreak being one of the ones who can kinda see through that shadow (having eyes in addition to the shadows that surround them)

Wonderful question! I think it's mostly just the stylings of our amazing Jorge Corona at play here. He uses heavy lines to help with emoting and I think it works wonderfully and can be interpreted as how you see it as well. His

expressiveness is something that makes this book so unique.

Can't wait to see where things go from here, and I hope to see Shreadhead continue to bring the noise.

Salem

Salem, I can just about guarantee there shall be MUCH more noise to come! And thank you for writing in :)

After almost forty years Devastator finally has his rightful revenge and victory over Bruticus! As someone who's earliest Transformers memory is watching the Constructicons combine at the end of Heavy Metal War, Big D has been my guy since elementary school. When Bruticus was introduced I feared that the Constructicons couldn't possibly be allowed to take the win, so you can imagine my reaction at seeing quite possibly THE COOLEST Devastator moment to date! All this isn't to say that I don't love ol' Bruty as well, but I want to thank you guys for making this Devy-centric spectacle of awesomeness a reality. I hope Megatron uses the Constructicons well in future issues.

Blake

Thank you reading, Blake, and writing in--that battle between Bruticus and Devastator in the last arc was nothing short of epic! Jorge and Mike crushed this prompt from Daniel in the script "SKYSCRAPER LEVEL CUTTER!!! MY GOD!!! WHAT ARE THEY THINKING??!!!" Comics don't get better than this!

Haha, that is LITERALLY what I wrote.

Hello Transformers team,

This is my first time writing a letter to a comic book team so this is really exciting.

I've been a Transformers fan since I was a kid. I grew up watching Transformers G1 and Prime. When I first saw this on my favorite comic book store's shelf, I was curious and excited to see one of my favorite franchises as a comic. I love the art style and mature tension in this series. Ever since the first issue, I've been looking forward to the next issue and the rest of the Energon universe.

I was left puzzled at a scene in the latest issue of Transformers (#18) where Megatron was able to repair Ravage like Optimus Prime with his Matrix of Leadership. I was wondering how he could do that and why he didn't fix himself first?

Besides that, I enjoyed every page and scene in each issue and wish for best for the teams of Energon Universe.

Charles G.

Congratulations on your first printed letter, Charles! And I hope you'll have read TRANSFORMERS #19 by now and know a bit more about Megatron's abilities...

But still, a good question why he didn't repair himself first! I'll put it this way: Megatron has a code he takes very seriously, which leads him to, in his own way, put his fellow Decepticons over even himself (unlike a red and blue Star Screamy kind of guy)! He is smart and calculating. He knows how important moments are, and I'd like to think he had this in his mind while he was walking through the desert before he was found by Laserbeak.

Hi Transformers team,

I just finished Transformers #18 and it was incredible. I am so happy for Soundwave, he had to wait so long for Ravage to be repaired and now he's got him back. I also feel really sorry for Thundercracker, and I think his resentment for Starscream and Soundwave might lead him to defect from the Decepticons. Seeing other characters on Cybertron was amazing and it made me wonder why Ratbat isn't on Earth with Soundwave and why he can talk and Laserbeak and Ravage can't. I was also wondering if we will see Buzzsaw, Overkill, or Slugfest eventually. It was also pretty cool to hear Motormaster mentioned.

I am so excited for the fourth arc now that Megatron has returned as the leader of the Decepticons and I can't wait until he fights Optimus Prime for his arm. The other thing I was curious about, is why Astrotrain said that Megatron killed his love.

Thank you for sharing your amazing talent,

Matheson

Thank you for writing in, Matheson…who said Laserbeak and Ravage can't talk? ;)

Maybe there will be an Astrotrain one shot someday??? There's been a lot of infighting amongst the Decepticons lately, and I was using Astrotrain's passion to show how that is not a new problem for them.

And thanks a wrap for this month...keep the letters coming in and be good to each other!

-Ben

Just have to shout out the people who helped make this issue happen, yet again! Jorge and Mike and Rus and Ben all have made this such a fun and easy process. I truly can't believe what I get to see in my inbox every day. They're helping me make magical moments. Here's to more fun and craziness coming in issue 21!!! Stay tuned!!!!

Love,

DWJ

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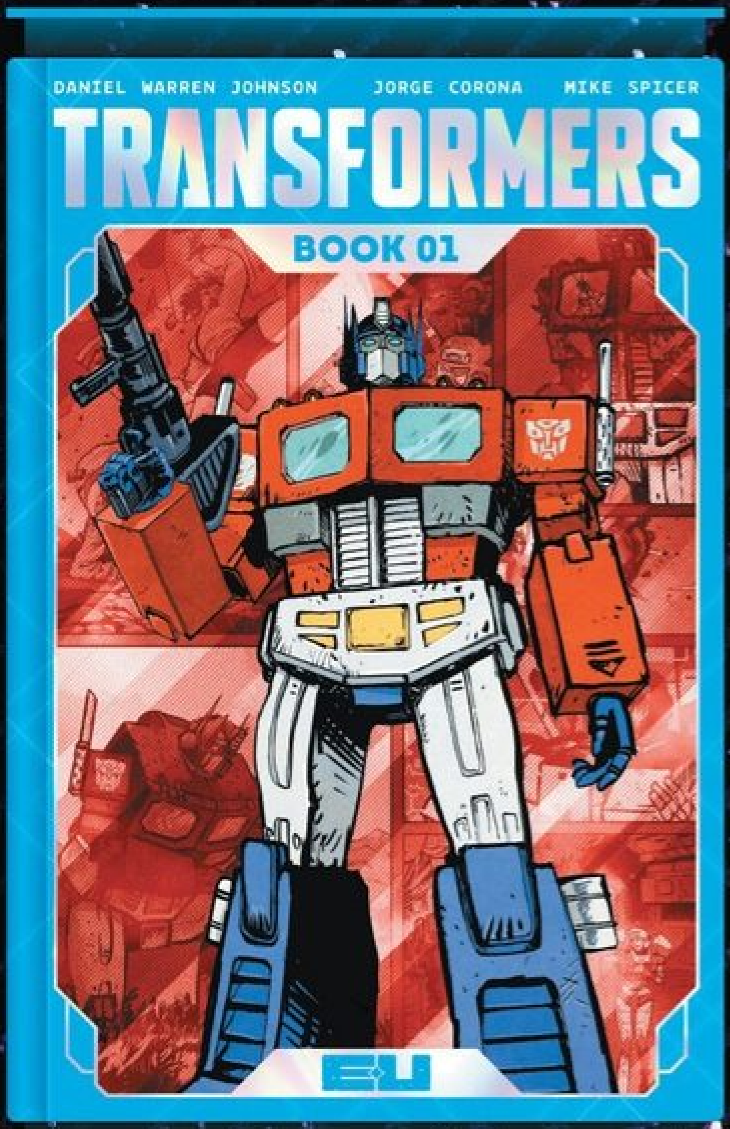
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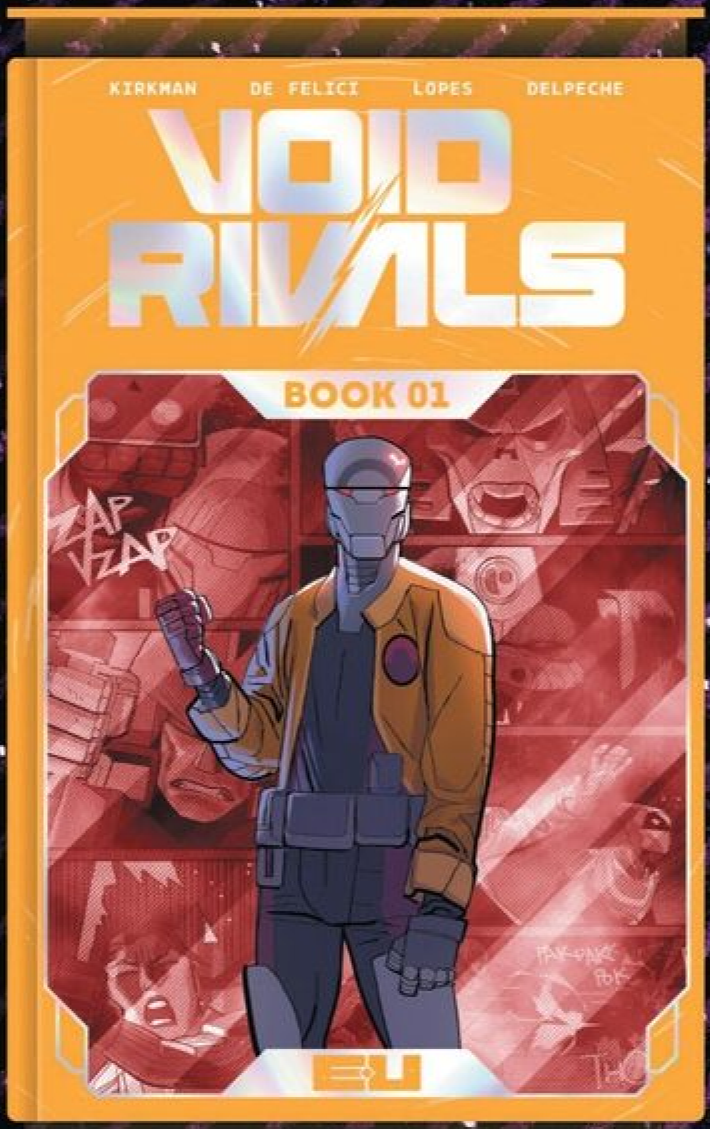
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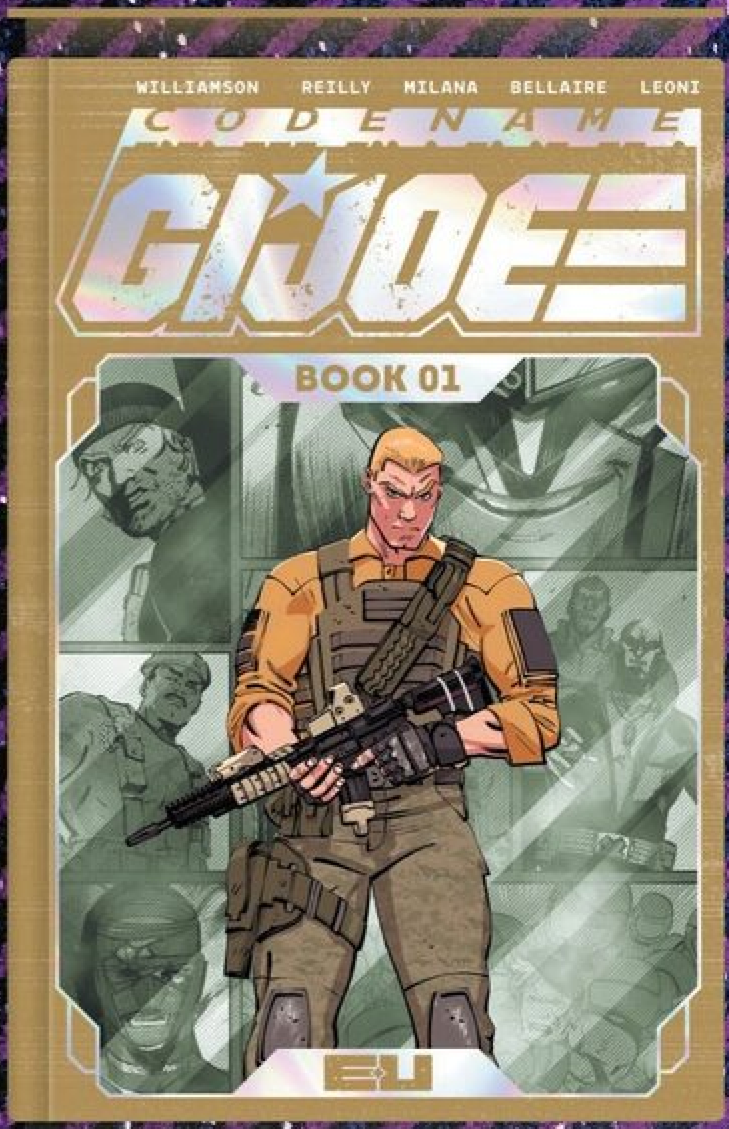
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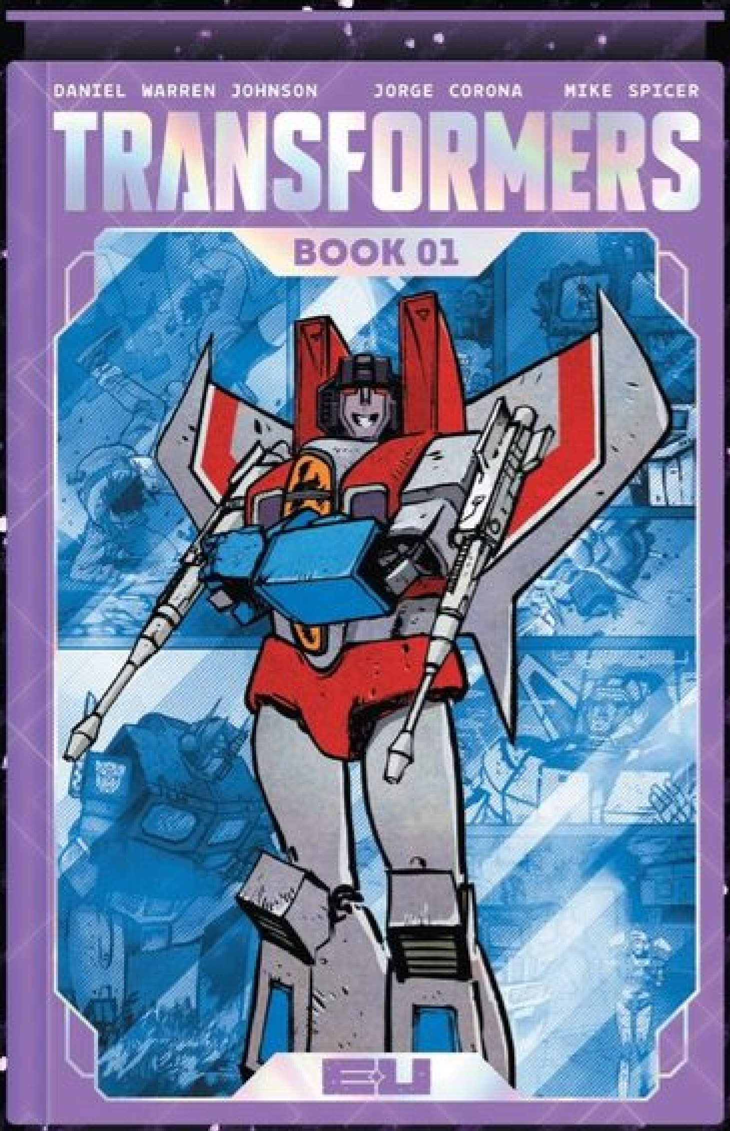
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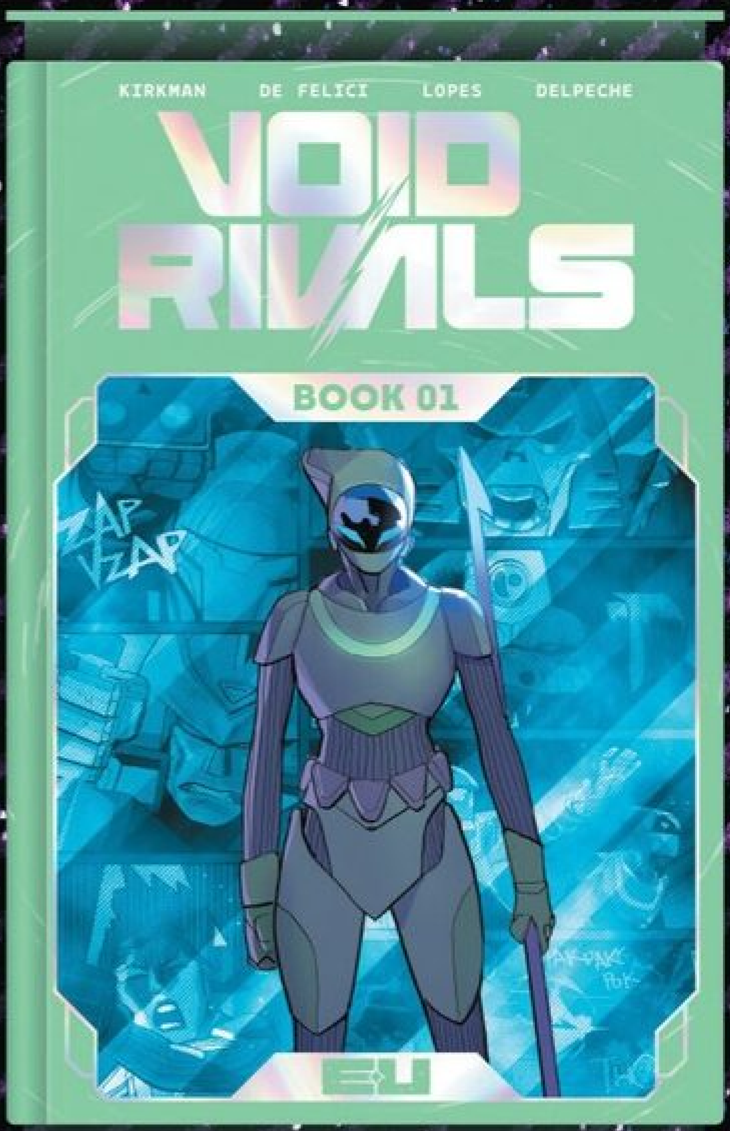
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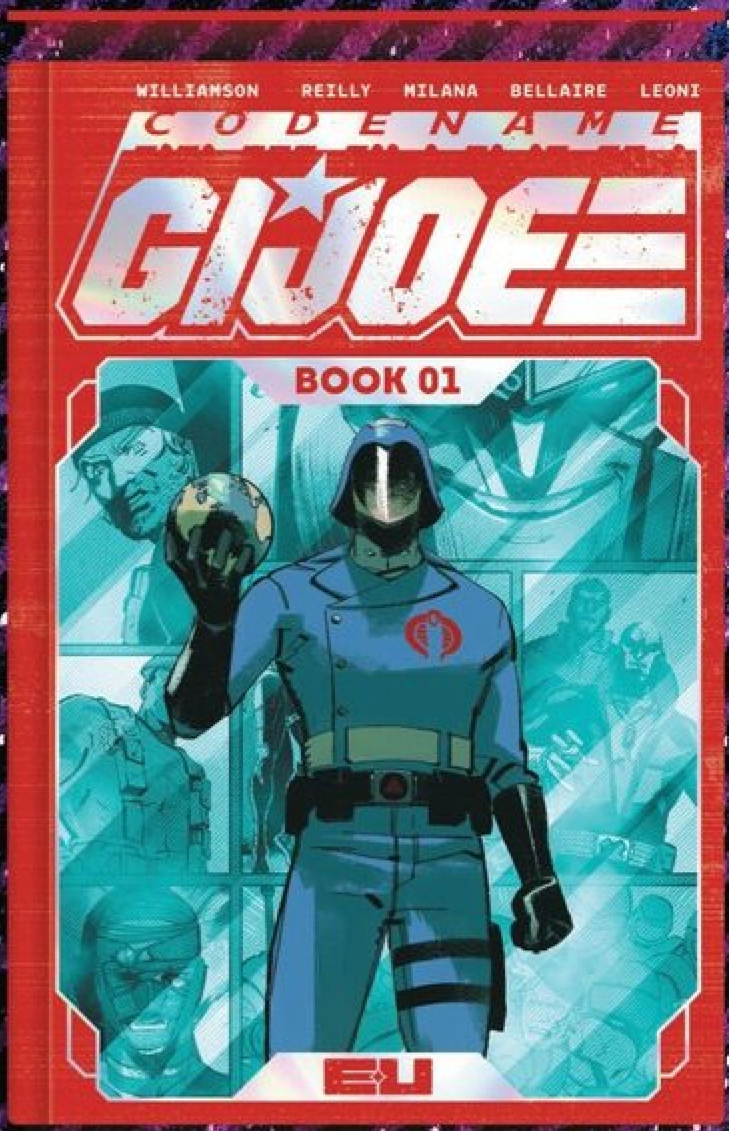
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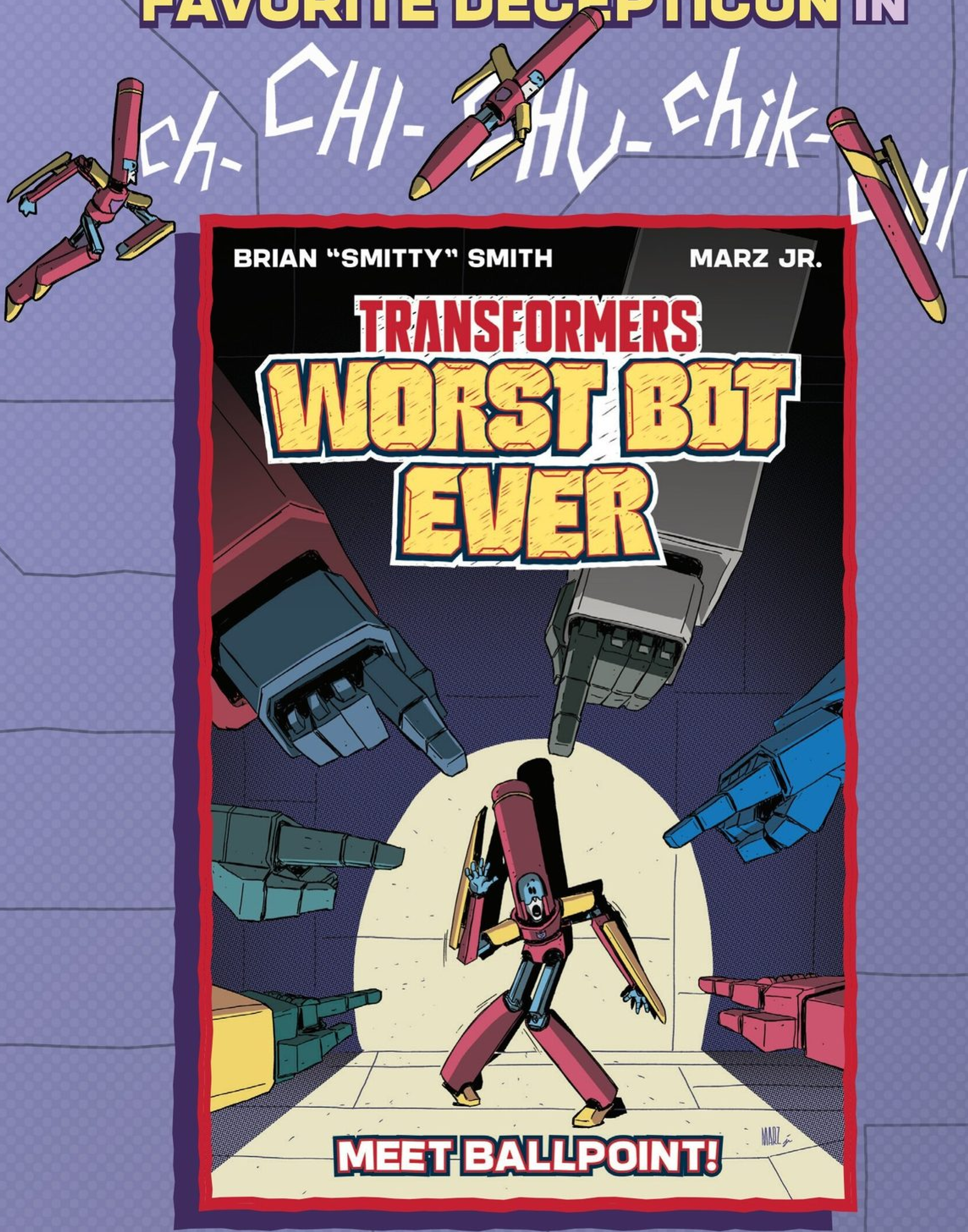
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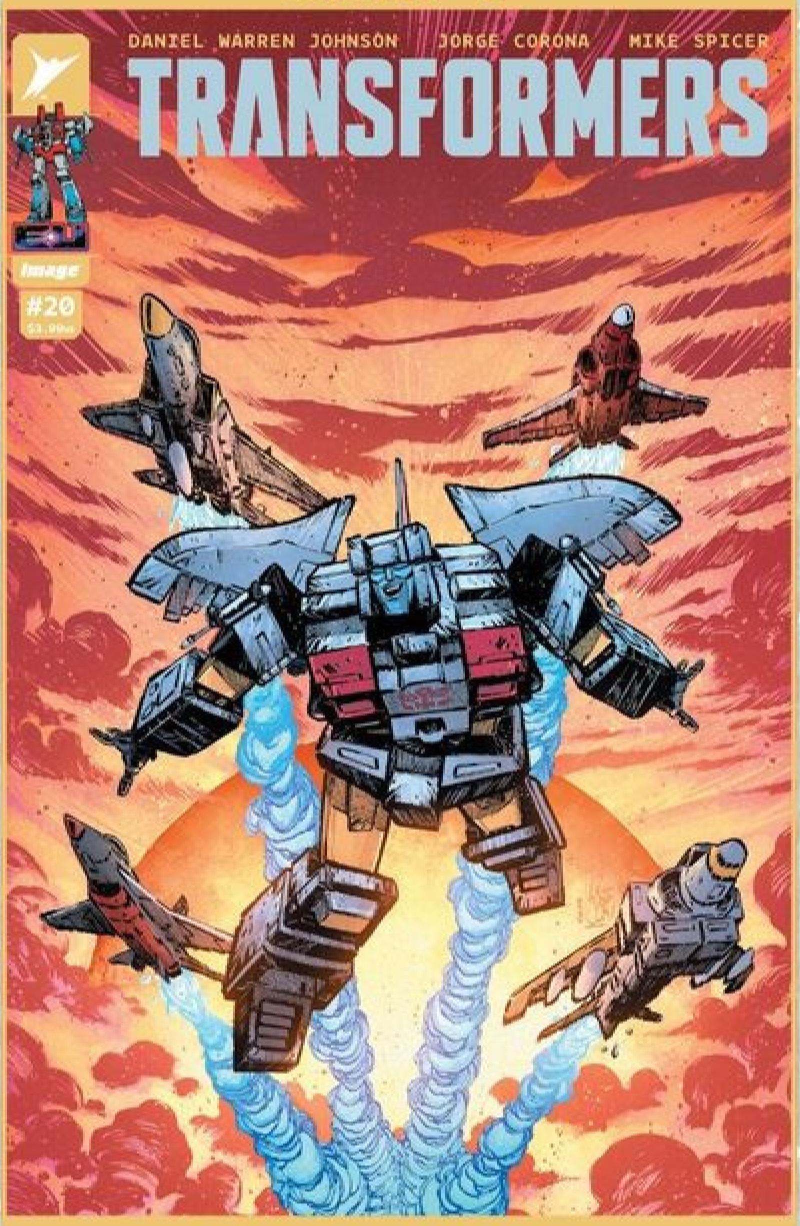
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